THE CASE STUDY OF
VANITAS
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Jun Mochizuki

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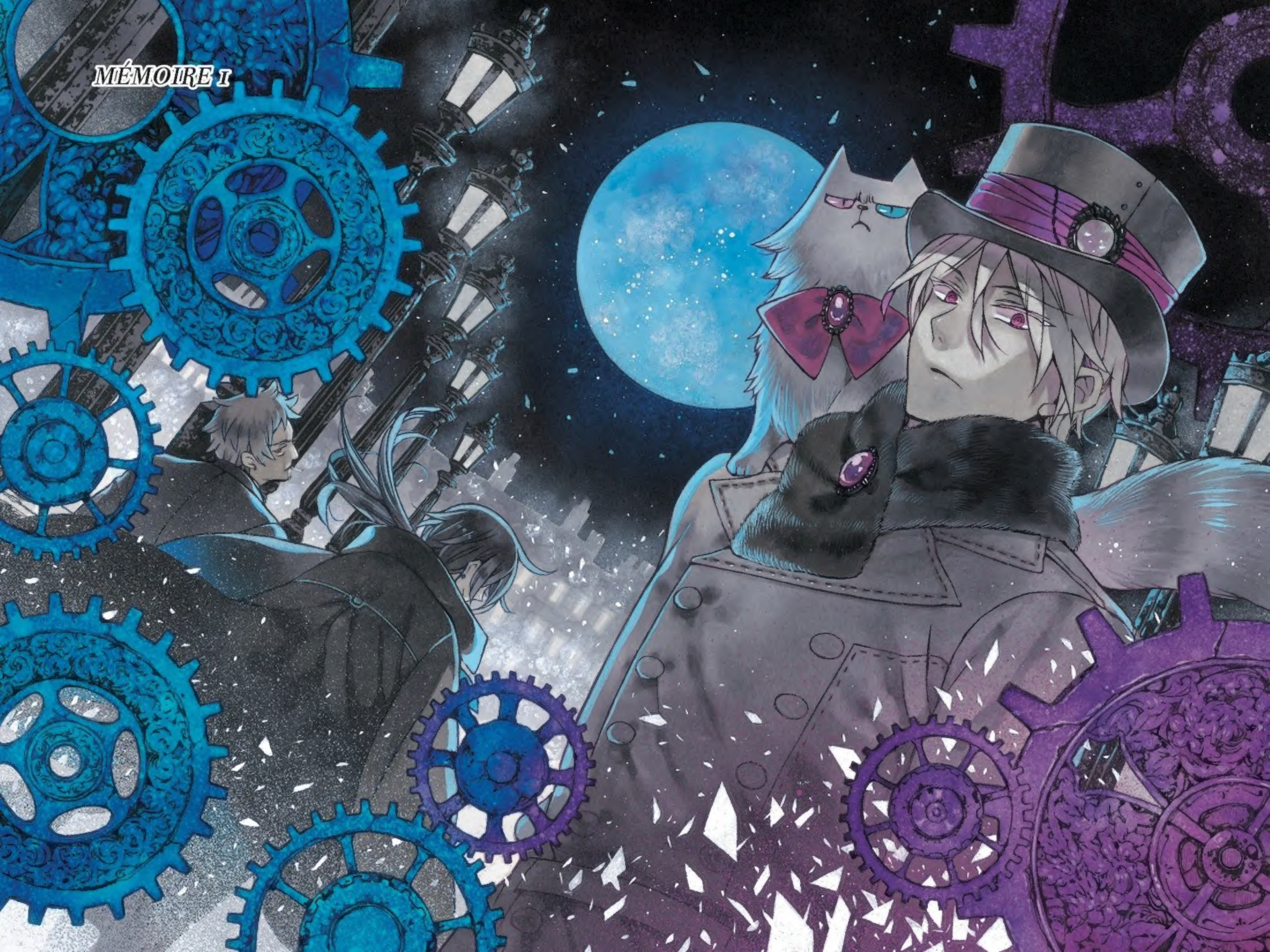
LISTEN WELL, MON CHATON.
YOU MUST NEVER LET ANYONE STEAL YOUR "TRUE NAME."
YOUR TRUE NAME IS THE FORMULA THAT SHAPES YOUR VERY BEING.
IN OTHER WORDS...
...IT IS YOUR LIFE ITSELF—

MÉMOIRE I



Les Mémoires de Vanitas

CORPSES COMPLETELY DRAINED OF BLOOD!
VAMPIRE APPEARS IN PARIS!!
REVENGE ON HUMANS!?
A NINTH VICTIM HAS BEEN
RUMORS THAT THE CHURCH HAS FINALLY BEGUN TO MOVE!
BITE MARKS ON THE NECK—
IT'S COLD...
A VAMPIRE ...?
ZAWA
ZAWA (MURMUR)
HOW AWFUL... TRULY?
COLD...

DOES THIS MEAN THERE WERE SURVIVORS, THEN? HOW FRIGHTENING ...
...THEY LOST A WAR WITH HUMANS LONG, LONG AGO AND WERE ANNIHILATED, WERE THEY NOT?
STILL, VAMPIRES...
MY GREAT-GRANDDAD SAID HE SAW ONE!
NO, NO, VAMPIRES ARE MERE FIGMENTS!
JUST ONE OF HIS TALL TALES!
GAYA
GAYA
GAYA (CHATTER)

WELL, THEY SAY THE CHURCH'S CHASSEURS ARE ON THE MOVE, SO I DOUBT THERE'S ANY NEED TO WORRY!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!

FURA (TOTTER)
HAAH...
...
...?
DOSA (WHUMP)
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES... I THINK I'LL BE ALL RIGHT IF I REST A LITTLE.
NOT AT ALL. ARE YOU SURE I CAN'T TAKE YOU TO THE INFIRMARY?
...YOU'RE TOO KIND.
THANK YOU.
I-IT'S ONLY ANEMIA. PLEASE DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF!
...YOU DO LOOK PALE THOUGH.
I'M WORRIED...
ZUI CLEAND
ズィ
!?
KOTO (CLINK)
コト…
SO, UM...
THERE ARE...SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES... I DON'T INTEND TO LET ANY OTHER DOCTOR EXAMINE ME.
I'M... ON MY WAY TO SEE A DOCTOR NOW.
?

?
MOZO (SQUIRM)
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
AH! HEY, MURR!
GORO (PURR) GORO GORO GORO GORO
OH MY.
KYAAAA!
MY, MY, MY! HOW SWEET!
MROWRR!!!
EEEEK!?
HE'S SO WARM...
...FU FU!
FUWA (FLUFF)

IF YOU DON'T MIND, MIGHT I ASK YOUR NAME?
UM ...
I'M AMELIA.

I DIDN'T MEAN THE CAT...
OH!
NO...
PLEASE! DO CALL HIM BY IT!
BY ALL MEANS!
HIS NAME IS MURR!
OF COURSE!

...will be arriving in Paris in approxi-mately one hour.
As per its original schedule, La Baleine ...
This is an announce-ment for all passengers.
KIII (KREEEE)

GAH!!
!?
GATA (CLATTER)
Although it has nearly reached its end...
La Baleine
...please enjoy the remainder...
...of your journey through the skies.
DA
DA (TMP)
DAN (BAM)

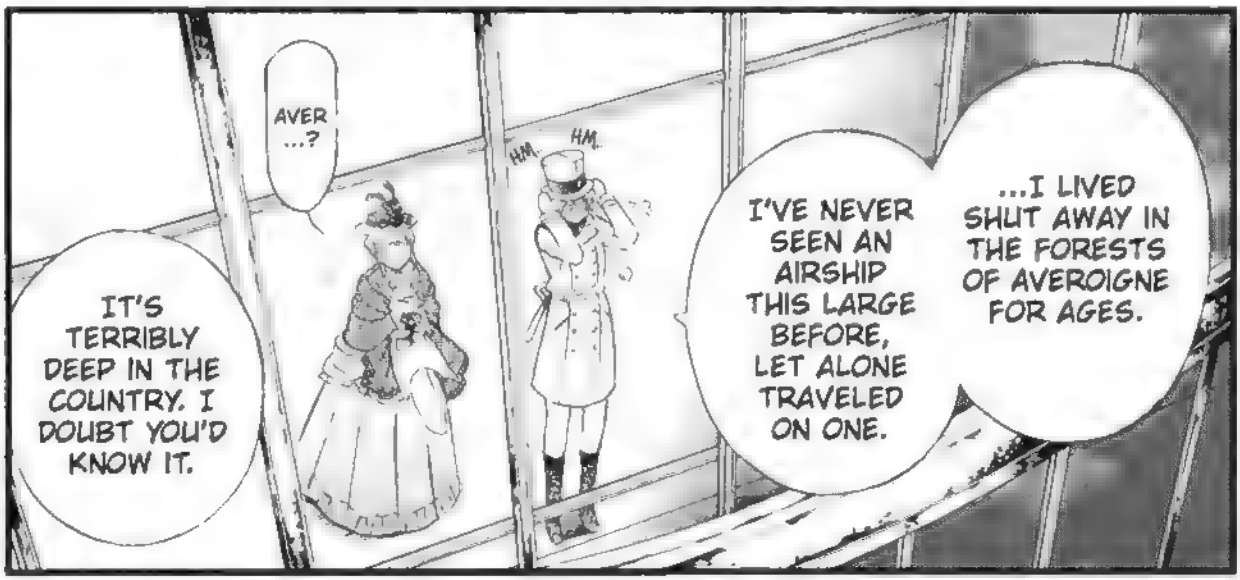
PARIS! WHERE IS PARIS, MADEMOISELLE AMELIA!?
GURUN (SPIN)
GURUN
GURUN
GURUN
DON'T LOOK!
MAMAN!
UM... I DON'T THINK WE CAN SEE IT FROM HERE YET...
IS THAT RIGHT!?
BIKU (FLINCH)
PARIS!!!

ONCE YOU BOARD AN AIRSHIP, IT'S REALLY NO TIME AT ALL BEFORE YOU'RE IN PARIS!
STILL, IT'S AMAZING, ISN'T IT!?
PA (BEAM)

SHUN (DROOP)
.....
OH.
WHAT A PITY.

IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME ABOARD AN AIRSHIP, THEN?
...
PFFT!

WERE YOU TRYING TO HIDE IT!?
BETTA (SQUISH)
べったー
WHATEVER GAVE IT AWAY!?


AVER ...?
HM. HM.
IT'S TERRIBLY DEEP IN THE COUNTRY. I DOUBT YOU'D KNOW IT.
I'VE NEVER SEEN AN AIRSHIP THIS LARGE BEFORE, LET ALONE TRAVELED ON ONE.
...I LIVED SHUT AWAY IN THE FORESTS OF AVEROIGNE FOR AGES.

I HEAR PARIS IS A STEAM-POWERED CITY TO RIVAL EVEN LONDON.
I'M ALREADY LOOKING FORWARD TO LANDING THERE.

TO THINK THEY'RE ABLE TO SET THIS MUCH WEIGHT FLOATING IN THE SKY... THE POWER OF ASTERMITE IS TREMENDOUS, ISN'T IT?

THE BOOK OF VANITAS.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF IT?
IT APPEARS IN A BEDTIME STORY, "THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON."
IT'S THE NAME OF A CURSED BOOK.
...THERE LIVED A HATED VAMPIRE KNOWN AS "VANITAS."
ONCE UPON A TIME, IN A CERTAIN PLACE...

HOWEVER, FOR SOME REASON, VANITAS WAS BORN ON THE NIGHT OF A BLUE FULL MOON, A SYMBOL OF MISFORTUNE.
VAMPIRES ARE ORDINARILY BORN ON THE NIGHT OF A CRIMSON FULL MOON.

FRIGHTENED OF THE DARKNESS, FREEZING IN THE SNOW, HE WANDERED AND WANDERED.
VANITAS WAS ALL ALONE IN THE FOREST.
EVERYONE WAS AFRAID OF VANITAS, AND THEY RAN HIM OUT OF THE VILLAGE.

...VENGEANCE ON VAMPIRES BORN ON THE NIGHT OF A CRIMSON MOON.

FOOLISH VAMPIRES WHO PERSECUTED ME!
WHEN THIS BOOK IS OPENED, A CURSE MORE TERRIBLE THAN DEATH WILL BEFALL YOU!!
A BLUE LEATHER COVER AND JET-BLACK PAGES...
A CLOCKWORK GRIMOIRE LINKED TO A SILVER CHAIN...
IT WAS A SPECIAL BOOK CREATED BY VANITAS, IMBUED WITH THE POWER TO INTERFERE WITH VAMPIRES' TRUE NAMES.

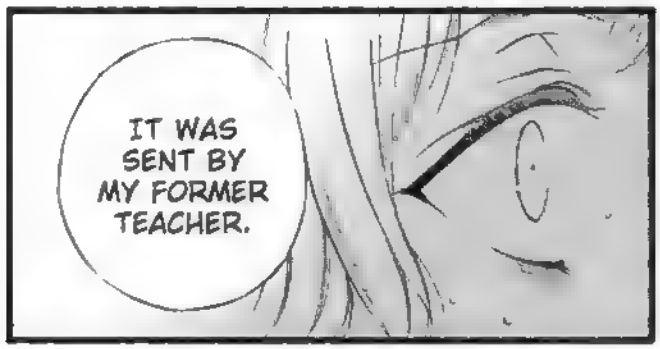
"...HE WILL BECOME THE ONE WHO WILL DESTROY ALL VAMPIRES."
HEY, ARE YOU SERIOUSLY GOING?
...
OF COURSE.
WE KNOW THE TARGET'S IN HERE.
I WON'T LET THE VAMPIRES ESCAPE ME...!
BLUE MOON-LIGHT, LIKE MY OWN, WILL DWELL IN THE EYES OF HE WHO HOLDS THIS BOOK...
...AND BEFORE LONG...

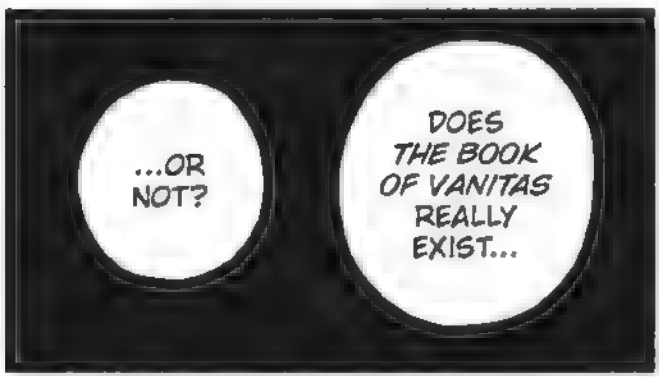
GOOON
ゴ〜ーン
THAT TIME ALREADY?
GOOON
ゴ〜ーン
(BOOONG)
!
I'LL ESCORT YOU TO YOUR ROOM, MLLE AMELIA.
WE'LL NEED TO PREPARE TO DISEMBARK SOON.
GAJI (GNAW)
GAJI
GAJI
GAJI
GAJI
GAJI
IT'S COLD...
GU (GRAB)
.....

Those who are not yet prepared to disembark should —
— From this point on, passengers will be unable to use the onboard facilities.

...
I DON'T KNOW.
THE BOOK OF VANITAS... DO YOU THINK SOMETHING LIKE THAT...TRULY EXISTS?

THAT STORY ...


IT WAS SENT BY MY FORMER TEACHER.


...OR NOT?
DOES THE BOOK OF VANITAS REALLY EXIST...

HOWEVER ...
...I RECEIVED A LETTER THAT SAID...
..."ITS EXISTENCE HAS BEEN CONFIRMED IN PARIS."

I'M GOING TO PARIS TO SEE FOR MYSELF.
HFF
DOSA (THUMP)
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?
!
MLLE AMELIA !?

DON'T TOUCH ME!!
PARIN (SHATTER)
HISSS!
MADEMOISELLE AMELIA, YOU'RE...
ZAWA MUTTER
ZAWA

...THAT SHINE IN THE DARKNESS.
RED EYES...
...A VAMPIRE...

BARIN
(CRASH)

WHAT ...?
FOUND...
...YOOOU!!

I THOUGHT I HAD YOU THERE.

WHAT'RE YOU?

I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME.
.....

...YOU'LL GET HURT.
IF YOU DON'T...
TAKE MY ADVICE— LEAVE HER AND GET LOST.
MY ONLY BUSINESS IS WITH THAT GIRL.
PAN (WHAP)

I REFUSE.

HYU (WHIRR)
BYU (SWISH)

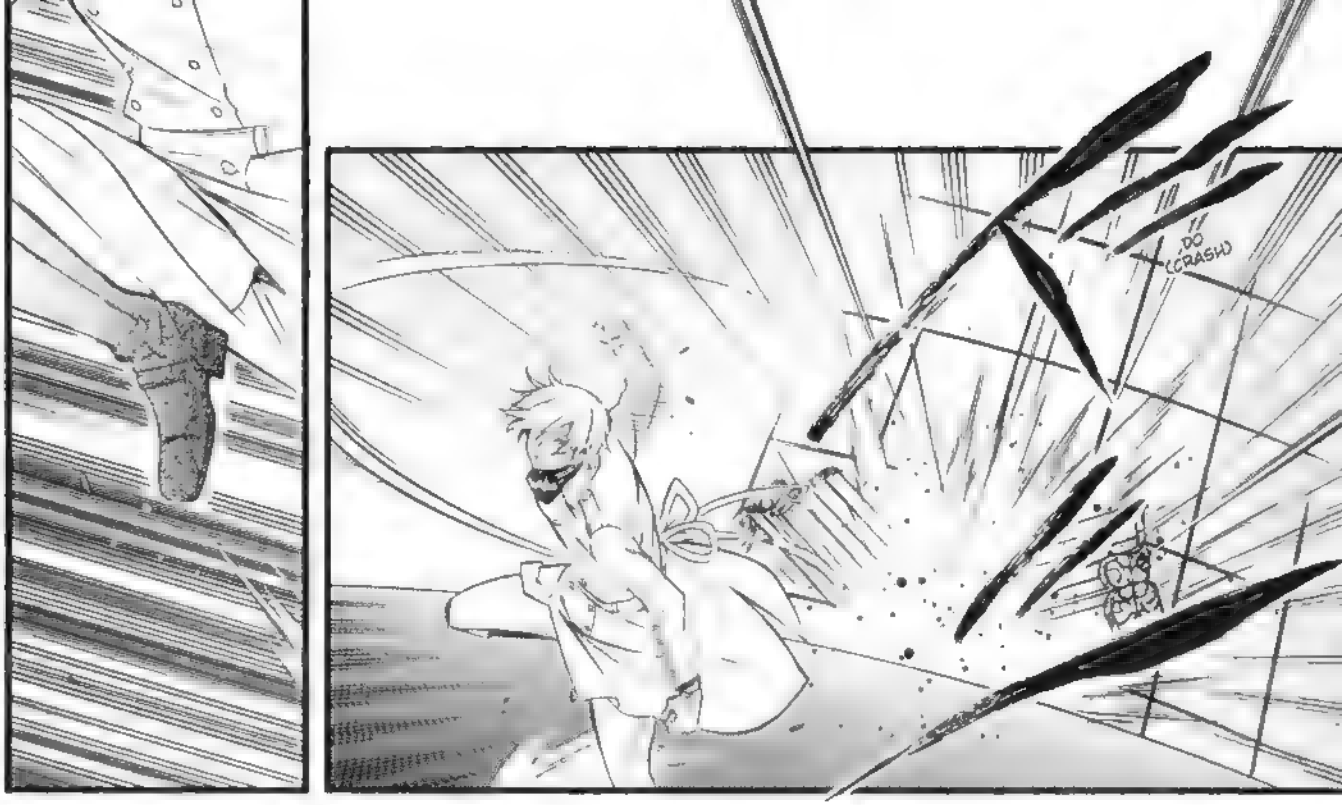
HA HA!
FOR SOMEONE CARRYING A GIRL, YOU MOVE PRETTY WELL!
KACHI (CLICK)
DO (THOOM)
DO
DO
WIRE?

UGH!
UUH...
UU...
WHAT THE HECK ...?
WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY?
!
AAAAAAAAH!!!
GLIN (YANK)

GOT 'IM!
HYOI (TOSS)
ひょい

HUH?

A TAN
BYU (WHIRR)
(GURLIN) TUMBLE(S)
A -/n/
TAN (TMP) !!!!
GO (OHHJO)


DO
(CRASH)

TAN
(TMP)
TAN

FUWA
(FLOAT)

GASP!
...!
TA
TA
TA
TA
GARA (RATTLE)
I AM NOT...
...A "QUACK" !!
GARA
TAN
HEY! YOU ALIVE, QUACK!?
...
WELL, WELL! THAT WAS CARELESS OF ME!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

THOSE RED EYES...

SO HE'S A VAMPIRE TOO, IS HE!?

...LITTLE TIME REMAINS.

FROM THE LOOKS OF IT...

HURRY.
BASA (FLAP)
...

COLD...!
IT'S COLD ...
HFF
HFF
HFF
SHARA (SFFT)

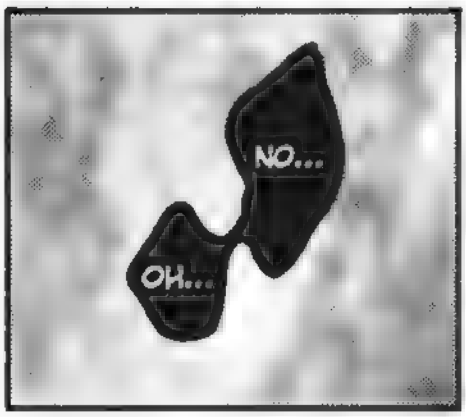
I LIKE IT.
IT'S SO WARM, AND THE FLOWERS ARE LOVELY.
WHAT A NICE PLACE.
WOULD YOU GIVE IT TO ME...?
THIS PLACE— YOUR "TRUE NAME"...
IT'S BEING BLOTTED OUT...
AH!
AH ...
AH ...
JIWAA (SEEP)
AH ...!

MY TRUE NAME...MY LIFE...
AAAAAA
AAAAAAAH!

PITCH...BLACK...
AAAAAA
AAAAAAAH!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
PLEASE TAKE HER TO THE INFIRMARY.
HFF

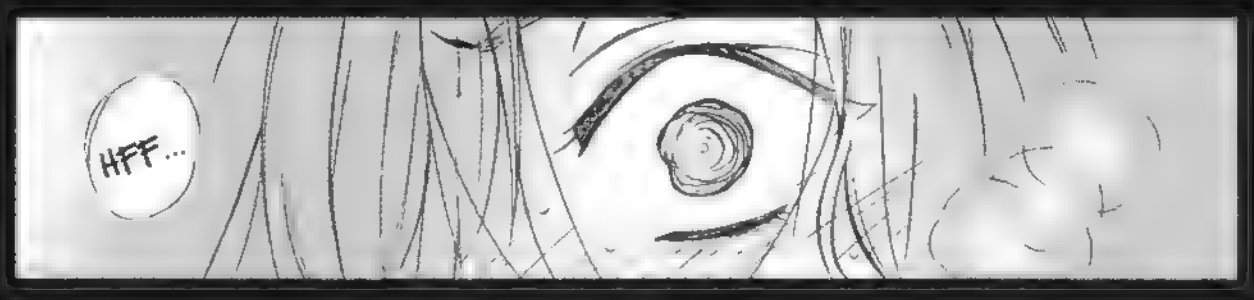
MLLE AMELIA!


NO...
OH...

HUH~ ~?
CATCH THE LOT WHO TRIED TO ATTACK HER AND FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.

GYUU (SQUEEZE)

COLD...I'M SO COLD I MAY DIE...



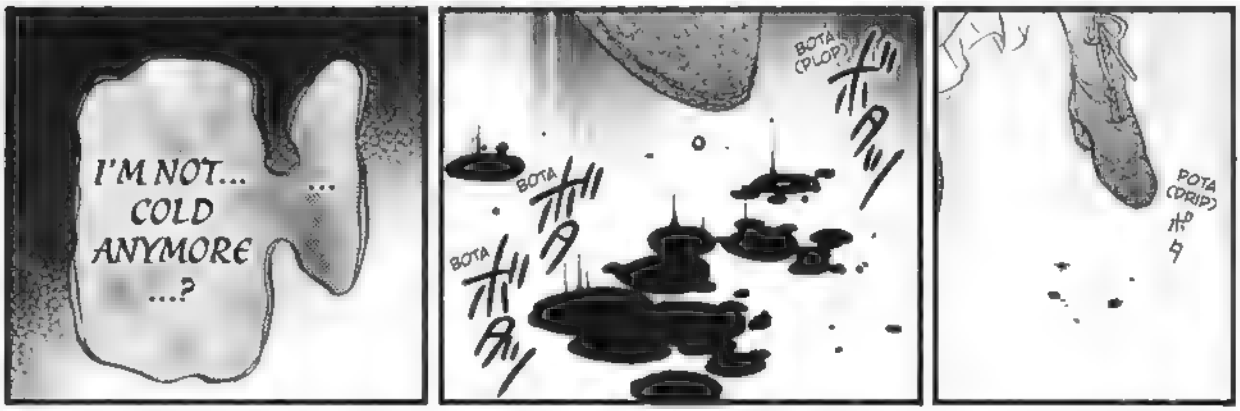
AND SO...

...I WANT SOMETHING HOT.

GAN
(CHOMP).

JYURURU (SLURRD)
ZOKU (SHUDDER)
GU (SUCK)
GU
EEEEEEEEEK!
!
MLLE AME... LIA...!?
GU
GU
THIS IS BAD...
...!
GAKU! (SLUMP)
.....

LET... GO!!
BASHI (SMACK)
MY STRENGTH IS DRAINING AWAY...!


I'M NOT... COLD ANYMORE ...?
...
BOTA (PLOP)
BOTA
BOTA
BOTA (DRIP)

MORE... GIVE ME MORE BLOOD!!
DOKDO (DODOD)
I'M WARM...

BOTA
BOTA
BOTA
BOTA
BOTA
ZOZOZO (SHUF)
!!
EEEEK!
DO (THUD)
DO
WHA—?
WHAT'S THIS!?
GO (WHUD)

GU (GRIT)
MLLE AMELIA, STOP THIS.
GU
GU
DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?
GU
GU
GASHI (GRAB)

AAAAAH!
AAAAAH!

AH!
OOH!
VAMPIRES ARE FORBIDDEN TO ATTACK HUMANS.
IF YOU PERSIST IN THIS, THEY MAY DISPOSE OF YOU!!

DON'T TELL ME...
ZURU (SLIP)
...
MY BODY IS SLUGGISH.
!?
DOKUN (BA-DMP)
GUGU
GAN (CHOMP)
POISON...?
GUPAA (GAPE)

BACH!!
(SNAP)

...GOOD GRIEF. THERE, YOU SEE? I TOLD YOU YOU'D GET HURT.
!?
UGH...
UGH...
UU...

NI (SMIRK)
JUST AS I THOUGHT, HER SYMPTOMS MANIFESTED.

PI (JAB)

UNBEAR-ABLE CHILLS...
...THE BLACK TEARS THAT SPILLED FROM HER EYES AND CHEST, AND...
...SHADOW BRIARS...

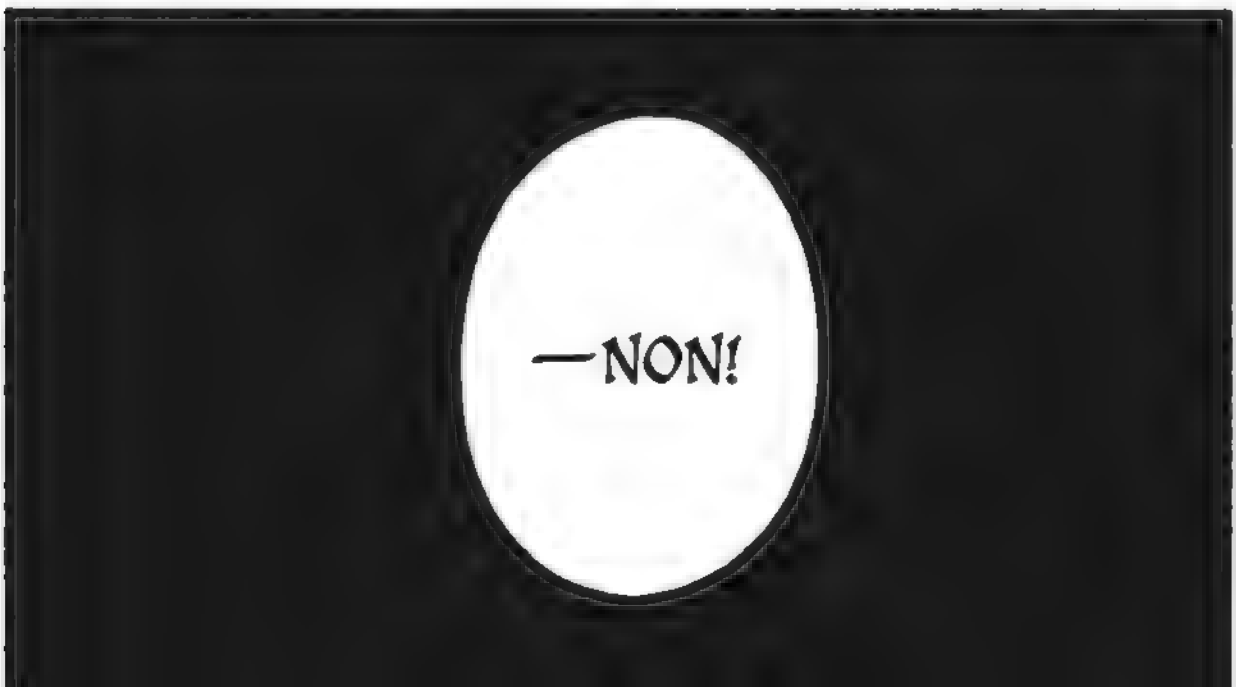
AND!? DID YOU FIGURE IT OUT!?
ZURU (DRAG) ズ"ル
ZURU ズ"ル
ZURU ズ"ル
OF COURSE.

EGLANTINE, PRISON OF BRIARS.
MALNOMEN—

THAT'S WHAT WE CALL THE REMAINS OF TRUE NAMES WARPED BY THE "MALADIES."
MAL... NOMEN ...?

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!
TRUE NAMES ARE VAMPIRES' LIVES, AND THAT WOMAN'S HAS BEEN WARPED.
THAT'S WHY SHE'S LOST HER SENSE OF SELF AND WHY SHE CAN'T FIGHT THE IMPULSE TO DRINK BLOOD, EVEN THOUGH IT'S GENERALLY EASILY CONTROLLED.
DAN
DAN (BANG)
HEY, QUACK! QUIT JAWING AND FINISH IT!
DON'T BE SO IMPATIENT, BALDY!
I'M NOT BALD!
GUI (TUG)

ARE YOU ONE OF THE CHURCH'S CHAS-SEURS?
OR ARE YOU A BOURREAU, AN EXECUTIONER, COME TO DISPOSE OF HER!?
ARE YOU... GOING TO KILL HER?
THAT'S RICH!
KERA
KERA
KERA (CACKLE)
KERA
KERA
ME, A CHASSEUR? A BOURREAU??
PFFT!


—NON!

I CAME...
...TO HEAL HER!
JARA (JANGLE)
I AM A DOCTOR.
ONE WHO SPECIALIZES IN VAMPIRES.

"A BLUE LEATHER COVER AND JET-BLACK PAGES"...

PAGHIN (CLICK)

GI (GREAK)

"A CLOCK-WORK GRIMOIRE LINKED TO A SILVER CHAIN"...

THAT'S ...

IT CAN'T BE...

DO... (SHOCK)

THE BOOK OF VANITAS ...!?
PARA
PARA
NOW, THEN...
...LET'S GET HER TRUE NAME RETURNED, SHALL WE?

NO...
THE BRIARS ARE DISAP-PEAR-ING.
THEY'RE BEING BROKEN DOWN...?

...?

LIGHT...
IT'S WARM...
...

NO.
...SPRING SUNLIGHT...
ALMOST LIKE...
BUA (FWOOSH)
THIS LIGHT...
...IS YOURS...

...“FLORIFEL,” SHE WHO GUIDES SPRING!
SO THIS IS YOUR TRUE NAME, IS IT?
I SEE.
GOSH! (WIPE)
ゴシ
ゴシ

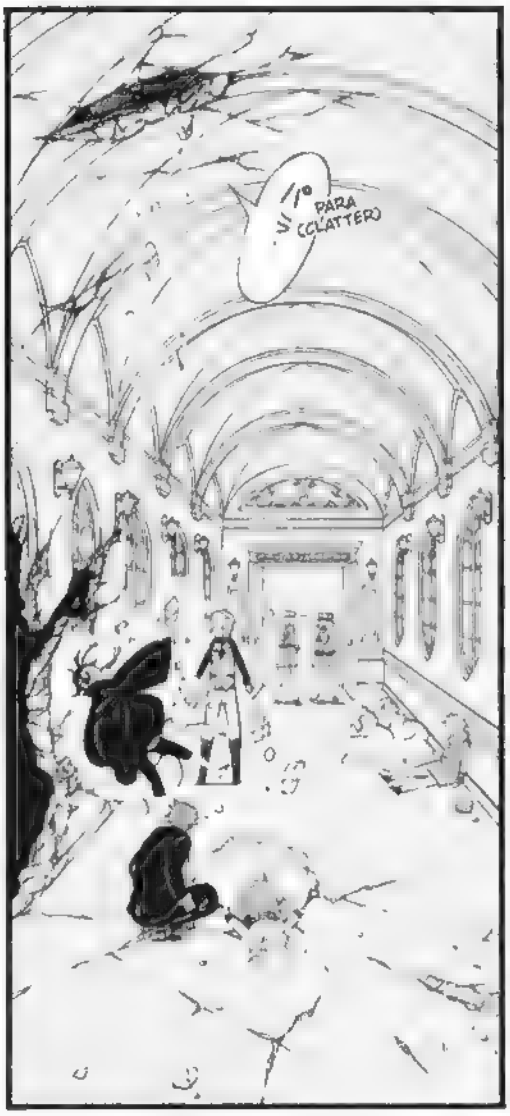
...
OH...
MY NAME ...
MY...
... REAL NAME ...!
IT SUITS YOU VERY WELL.
KEH!
THANK YOU...!

HUH. SHE DEAD?
IDIOT... SHE'S ONLY FAINTED.
ZA (SHUF)

DON'T MOVE!!

—

PARA (CLATTER)
WHAT'S ALL THIS?
HANDS UP! WHAT WERE YOU DOING HERE!?
HEY, THIS WASN'T OUR FAULT.
YOU'RE THE INTRUDERS FROM THE OBSERVATION ROOM TOO, AREN'T YOU!?
YES!
THAT WOULD BE US!!
HEH!
TAKE MY ADVICE— DON'T INVOLVE YOURSELVES WITH US.
NGO STHOOM
!?
IF YOU DO...
...YOU'LL GET HURT...!!
GO


PARA (CLATTER)

GO (WHUD)
OW!!
!?

PASHI (SNATCH)

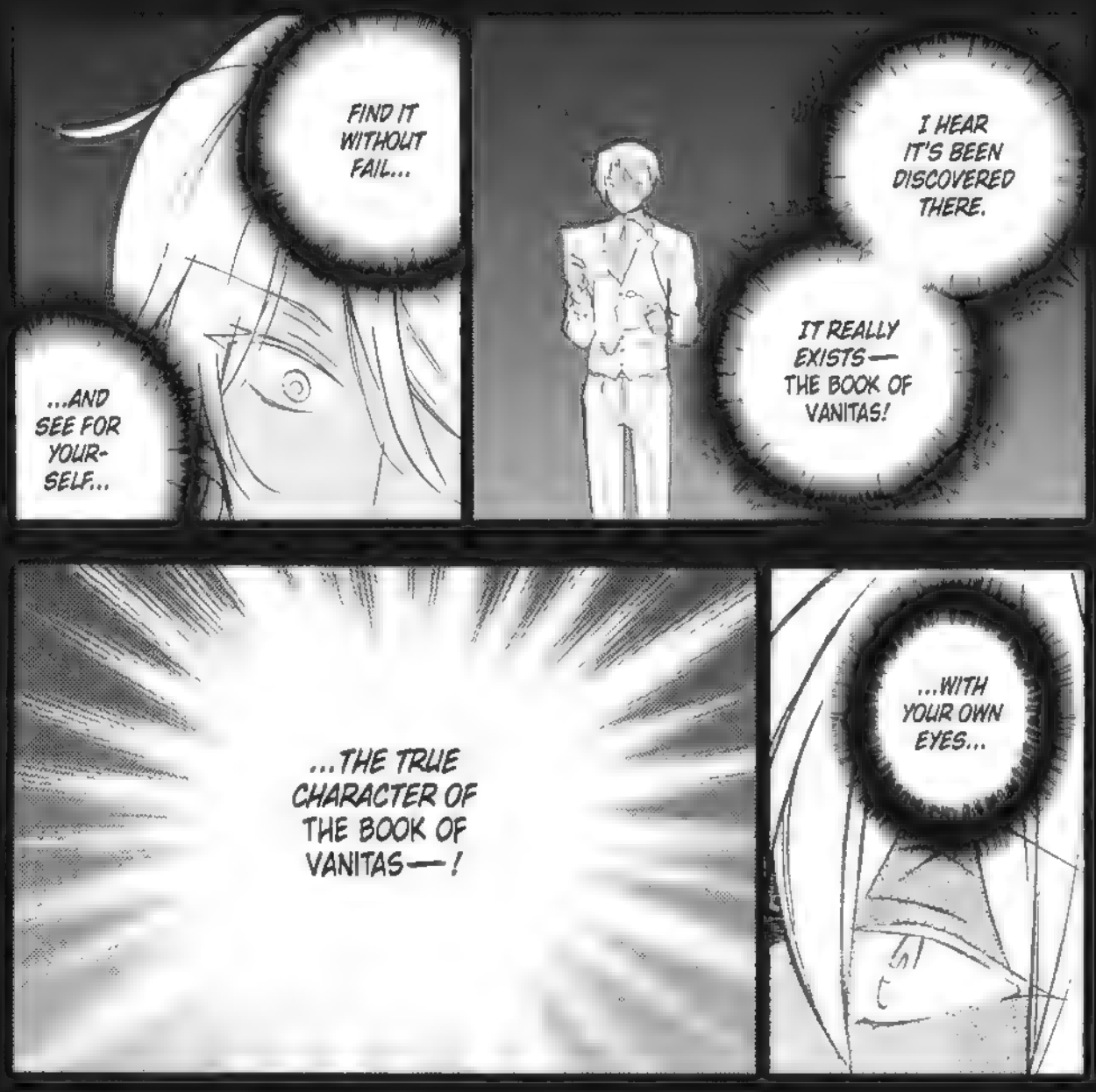
GURA (TOTTER)
YOU MO—

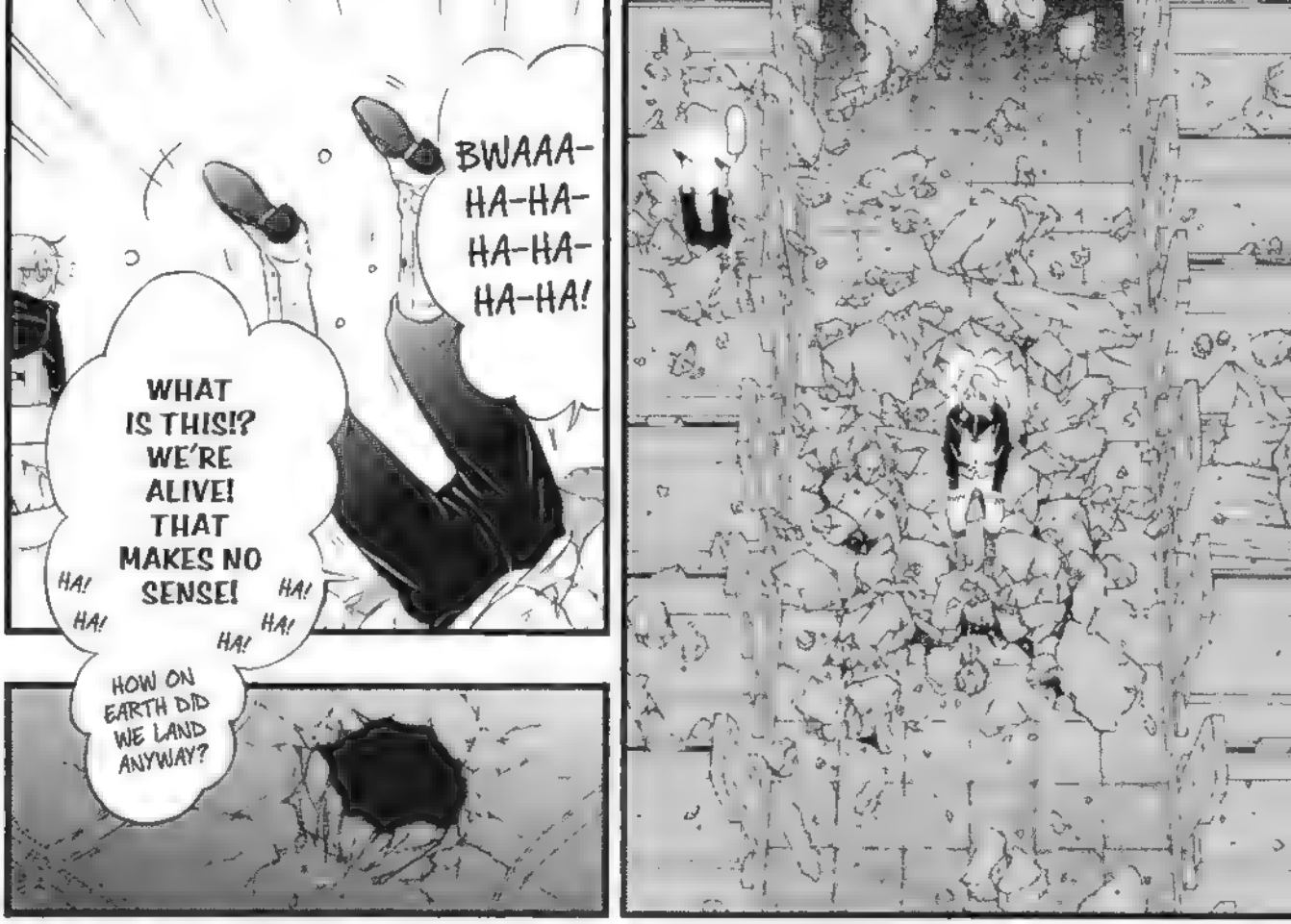
DAAA

YOU'RE...
...NOT AFRAID OF THAT MOON, ARE YOU?
A BLUE...
...MOON—

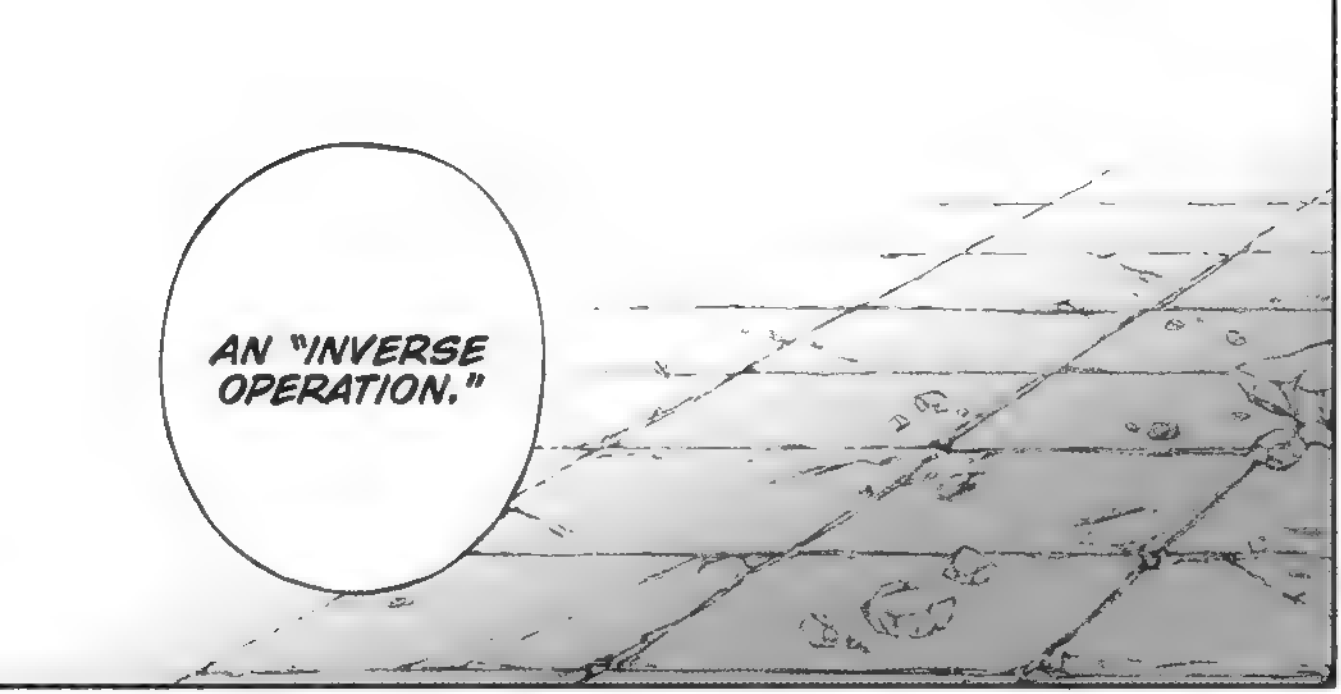
EVEN THOUGH THAT BLUE LIGHT IS SAID TO STEAL VAMPIRES' POWER AND IS A SYMBOL OF MISFORTUNE...
...
...BUT...
...TEACHER...

...TO MY EYES...
...THAT MOON SEEMS QUITE BEAUTIFUL.
...I WISH YOU TO FLY TO PARIS IMMEDIATELY.
MON CHATON...


FIND IT WITHOUT FAIL...
...AND SEE FOR YOUR-SELF...
I HEAR IT'S BEEN DISCOVERED THERE.
IT REALLY EXISTS— THE BOOK OF VANITAS!
...THE TRUE CHARACTER OF THE BOOK OF VANITAS—!
...WITH YOUR OWN EYES...


BWAAA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
WHAT IS THIS!? WE'RE ALIVE! THAT MAKES NO SENSE!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
HOW ON EARTH DID WE LAND ANYWAY?

SFX: GARA (RATTLE) GARA
ZUBO (POP)
ズボッ
WHAT WAS THAT BACK THERE?
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER!?
SUTA (SHLIP)
スタッ
.....


AN "INVERSE OPERATION."

THAT'S ALL IT WAS.
I USED THE POWER OF *THE BOOK OF VANITAS* TO INTERFERE WITH HER TRUE NAME AND REMOVE THE IRRITANT.
KA
KA (TAK)

...WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?
GU
GU (RGH)

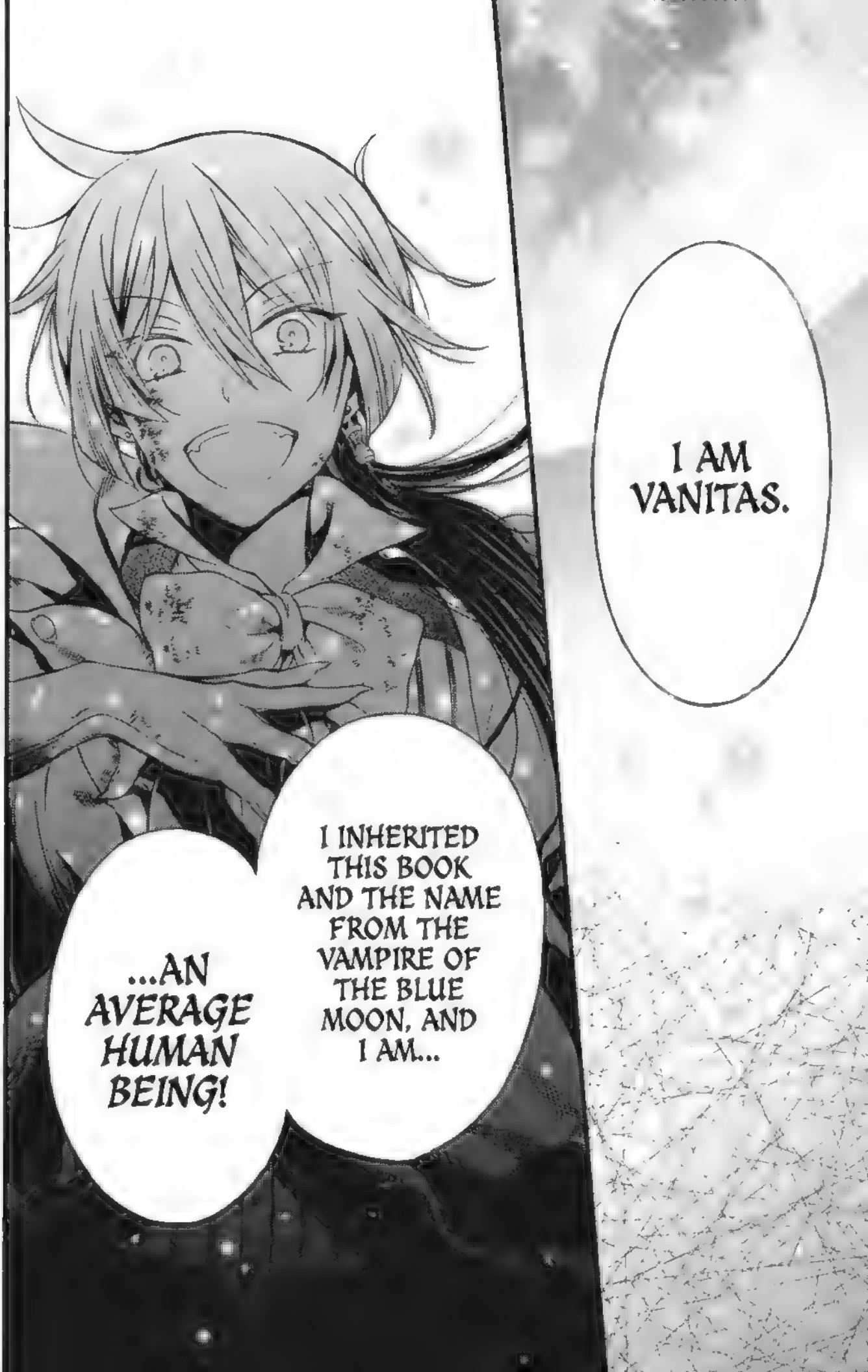
...ALL?
... THAT'S ...

PAAAAAA (BEEEAM)
THAT WAS PHENOMENAL!

...
...ISN'T A CURSED BOOK LIKE THE ONE IN THE BEDTIME STORY, IS IT!?
THE BOOK OF VANITAS ...
BUN
BUN
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT IT COULD DO A THING LIKE THAT!?
BUN (FLAIL)
BUN

NO ONE'S EVER LOOKED AT IT WITH SHINING EYES LIKE THAT BEFORE!
ALL THAT, OVER THIS BOOK !?
HA!
HA!
BWA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!

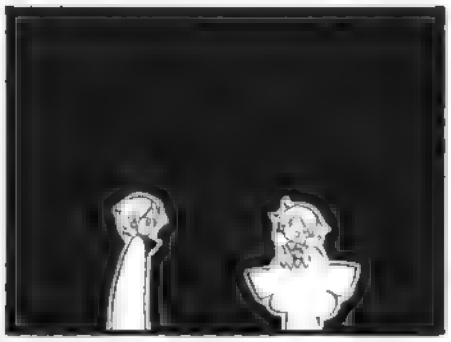
AND I'VE DECIDED I LIKE YOU.
YES. YOU'RE FUNNY.
HA HA HA
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
WAS WHAT I SAID REALLY THAT FUNNY?
I, UM...
...
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HYA!
HA!
HYA!
NOÉ.
.....
THAT'S A GOOD NAME.
"CHILD OF THE ARK," HM...?


I AM VANITAS.
I INHERITED THIS BOOK AND THE NAME FROM THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON, AND I AM...
...AN AVERAGE HUMAN BEING!

LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH, NOÉ!

HUH?
NO WAY.
HA!
HA!
WAH!
HA!
NO DOUBT YOU'LL MAKE A FINE "SHIELD"!
GREAT FIGHTING POWER, A STURDY BODY...
HA!
HA!

I JUST KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT !!
I SEE, I SEE! YOU'RE HAPPY, ARE YOU?
GUFU (CLENCH)
UM.
WAIT ...



WOULD YOU LISTEN TO—?
YOU SAW THE GIRL BACK THERE, DIDN'T YOU?
THE NUMBER OF VAMPIRES WHO'VE LOST CONTROL AFTER THEIR TRUE NAMES WERE ATTACKED BY MALADIES IS INCREASING RAPIDLY.
IF WE LET THINGS STAND, WITHOUT INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE...
...IN THE NOT-SO-DISTANT FUTURE, YOU VAMPIRES—

—WILL BE DESTROYED.

LET ME...
...PREVENT THAT FOR YOU.

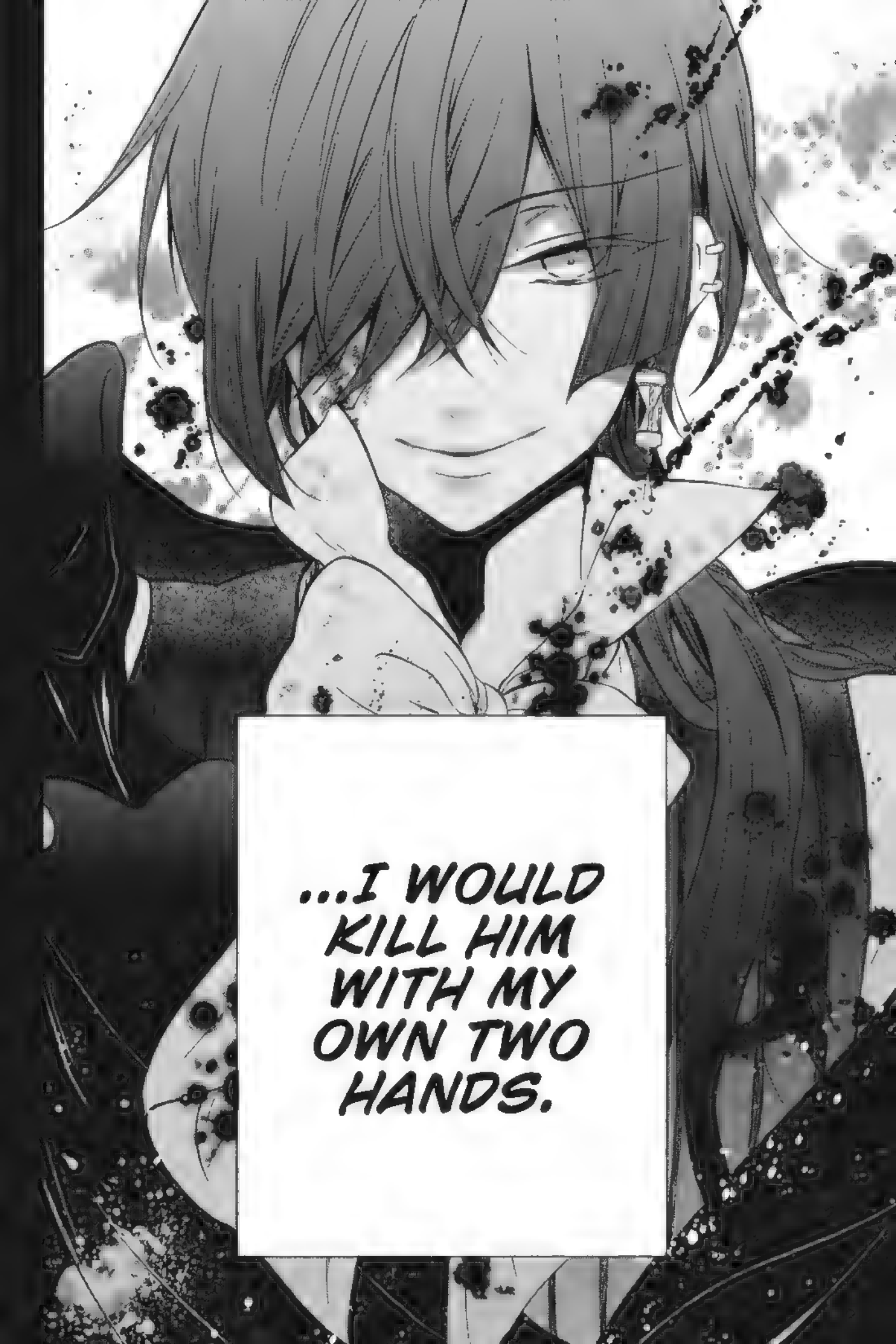
I'LL DO AS I PLEASE...
KA TAK
...USE METHODS I CHOOSE...
...AND, NO MATTER WHAT YOU PEOPLE WANT...
BASA (FLAP)

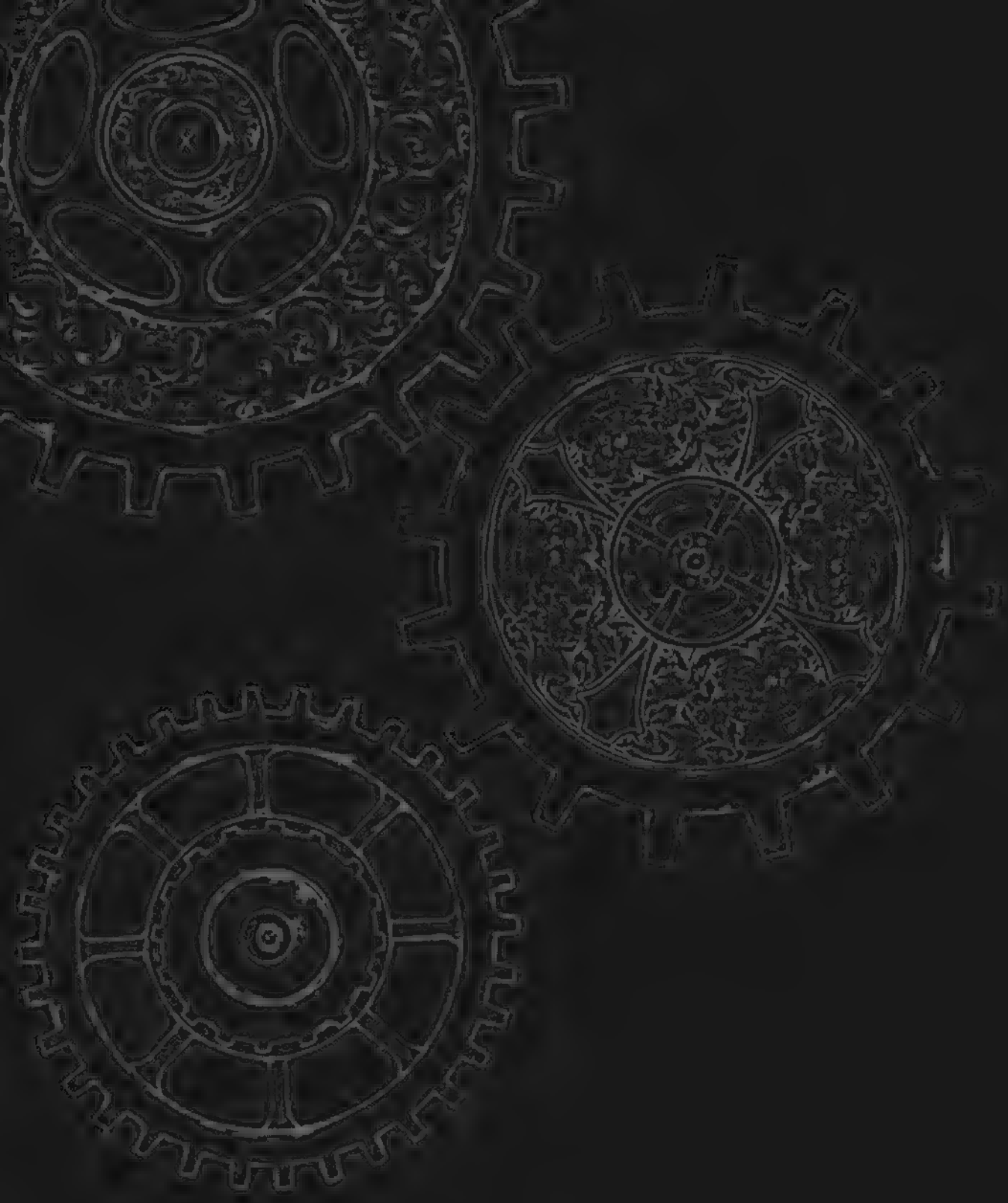
...WITHOUT FAIL!!!

...I WILL SAVE YOU...

THIS IS...
THAT...
...WAS THE BEGINNING.

...THE TALE OF HOW I MET VANITAS...
...AND HOW WE WALKED TOGETH-ER...
...OF ALL WE GAINED ...
...AND LOST...
...AND OF HOW...
...NOÉ...
I WON'T DIE...
...NOÉ.
EVEN IF I'M NO LONGER HERE...
...AT THE END OF THAT JOURNEY...


...I WOULD KILL HIM WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS.



Mémoire 1 Vanitas IN THE EVENT OF RUSTY HOPES

Les Mémoires de Vanitas

GRAND-FATHER TOLD ME SO.
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL VAMPIRES WHO TURN STRANGE OR VIOLENT ONE DAY, OUT OF THE BLUE.
GARI (SCRIT)
GARI (SCRIT)
DO YOU KNOW...
...ABOUT "CURSE-BEARERS," NOÉ?
GATSU (CRASH)
... VANI-TAS!
THE CURSE OF...
THAT'S OBVIOUS.
A CURSE...? WHOSE?
...
OOH...
ARE YOU OKAY?

PERO (LICK)
PERO
NOÉ! COME PLAY OVER HERE!
...EVEN IF... THERE WAS A CURSE-BEARER RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU...
SAY, NOÉ...
KUCHA (SLURP)

...THINK THAT BLUE MOON WAS BEAUTIFUL?
...COULD YOU STILL...
MÉMOIRE 2

...DEAR TEACHER...
...I HOPE THIS FINDS YOU IN GOOD HEALTH.

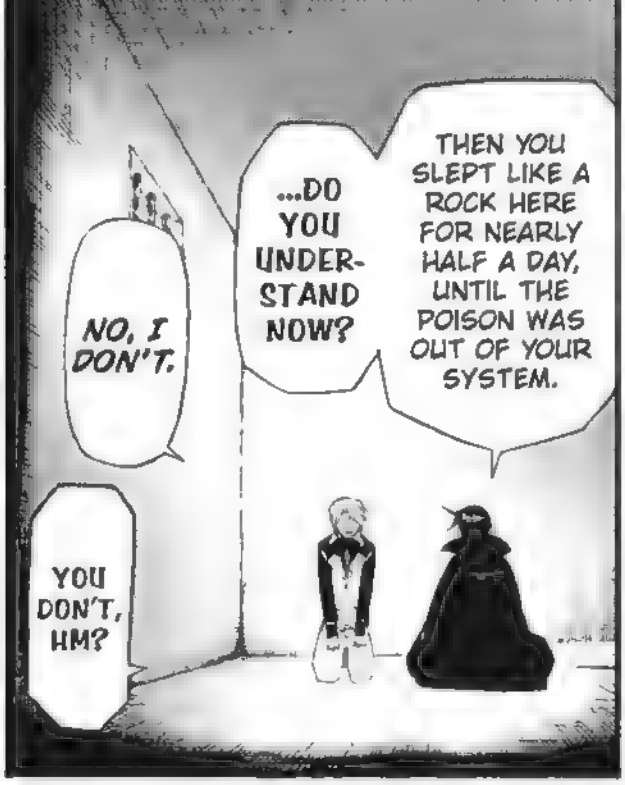
HAVING RECEIVED YOUR LETTER AND DEPARTED FOR PARIS...
...I WAS INVOLVED IN A CERTAIN INCIDENT ON BOARD THE AIRSHIP.
IN CONSE-QUENCE, I MET A MAN.

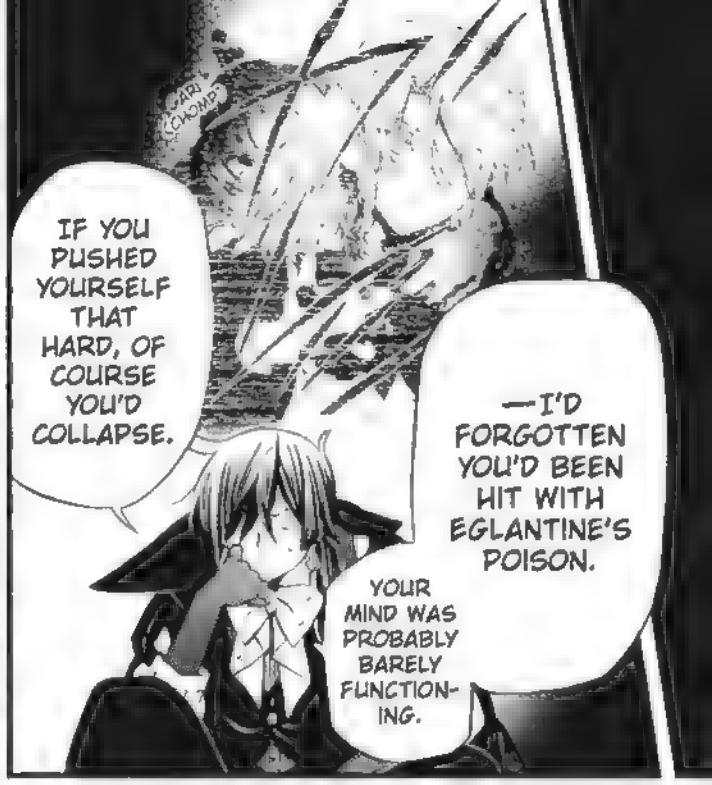
HIS NAME IS VANITAS.
HE SAYS HE INHERITED THE BOOK OF VANITAS FROM THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON...
...AND IS AN AVERAGE HUMAN BEING.
HE STYLES HIMSELF A "VAMPIRE MEDICAL SPECIALIST."

...RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES.
HE SAVED A VAMPIRE ...
...WHAT IS IT?
OUT WITH IT.
SU (SSK)
...
VANITAS, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.
WHY ARE WE IN PRISON?
MM.
A VERY GOOD QUESTION, MY DEAR NOÉ.

—TEN HOURS EARLIER...
I'LL SAY IT AS OFTEN AS I MUST.
NOÉ...
...LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH!
NO!
WHY NOT!?
WHAT OBJECTION COULD YOU HAVE?
KYA! (WHEE)
LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY FIRST.
IF WE TALK IT THROUGH, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND!
KYA!
AND BY THE WAY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
MY, BUT I'M HUNGRY!
...YOU ARE SERIOUSLY ANNOYING.
...? MY HEAD FEELS HEAVY...
I BEG YOUR PARDON, BUT... THERE'S A PLACE I MUST GO IMMEDIATELY.
HFF
IN THAT CASE, GET THAT ERRAND TAKEN CARE OF!
WE'LL TALK AFTERWARD!
...YOU'RE COMING WITH ME?

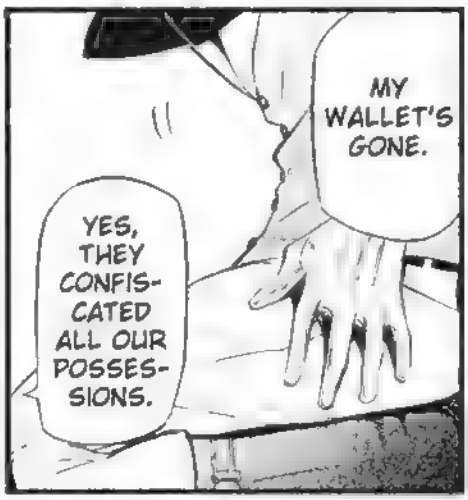
HFF...
WE'RE HERE, VANITAS.
HFF...
!!?
ALL RIGHT... I'LL JUST GO COLLECT MY CAT AND LUGGAGE. I'LL BE BACK...
HFF...
YORO (TOTTER)
YORO
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ZAWA
WHY DID YOU SAUNTER RIGHT BACK TO THE AIRSHIP!?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT!?
GAKUN (SHAKE)
HFF...
WELL, BE-CAUSE... MY CAT...
HFF...
GAKUN
AAAAH!! THERE HE IS! THAT'S HIM! THE INTRUDER !!!
!!
EEEK! CURSES ...!
FURAA (WOBBLE)
BATAN (WHUMP)
HUH?
AAAH! WAAUGH!


THEN YOU SLEPT LIKE A ROCK HERE FOR NEARLY HALF A DAY, UNTIL THE POISON WAS OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM.
...DO YOU UNDER-STAND NOW?
NO, I DON'T.
YOU DON'T, HM?


CARI (CHOMP)
IF YOU PUSHED YOURSELF THAT HARD, OF COURSE YOU'D COLLAPSE.
—I'D FORGOTTEN YOU'D BEEN HIT WITH EGLANTINE'S POISON.
YOUR MIND WAS PROBABLY BARELY FUNCTION-ING.

YOU ACTUALLY DID INFILTRATE THE AIRSHIP...
...BUT I JUST HAPPENED TO BE ON THE SCENE. WHY DID THEY ARREST ME TOO!?
IT MAKES NO SENSE!
BECAUSE I TOLD THEM YOU WERE MY ACCOMPLICE, MOOOO-ROOON!!!

HUH...? THE BOOK OF VANITAS TOO!?
OF COURSE.
WHA ...?

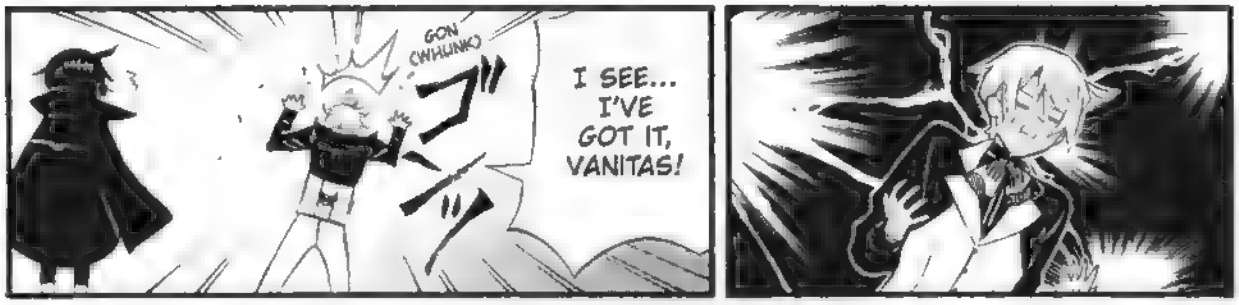

MY WALLET'S GONE.
YES, THEY CONFIS-CATED ALL OUR POSSES-SIONS.

NO!
I ONLY...
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM!?
WHAT? DID YOU WANT THAT BOOK?
...ONLY...
.....
FIND THE BOOK OF VANITAS WITHOUT FAIL... AND SEE FOR YOURSELF...
...THE TRUE CHARACTER OF THE BOOK OF VANITAS—!
MON CHATON...
...I WISH YOU TO FLY TO PARIS IMMEDIATELY.

"SEE FOR YOURSELF"... THIS TEACHER OF YOURS HAS AN AWFULLY VAGUE WAY OF PUTTING THINGS.
...HM.
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY OUT THERE.
NO, BEFORE ANY OF THAT...
WHAT IS MY TEACHER...
...TRYING TO MAKE ME DO...?
HE'S RIGHT.
HE DIDN'T SAY "STEAL THE BOOK" OR "DESTROY IT."
WHAT ON EARTH... ARE YOU?
I WILL SAVE YOU!!

KA (GLARE)
HANG ON, NOÉ!
WHAT IS YOUR CONNECTION TO THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON—?
HOW DID YOU GET THE BOOK OF VANITAS?
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHAT"?
ZUI (LOOM)
WHY THIS STUBBORN REFUSAL TO HELP?
IF IT'S THE BOOK OF VANITAS YOU'RE AFTER, YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME.
HUH!?
YES!?
SINCE I'VE BEEN TOLD TO DISCERN THE BOOK'S TRUE CHARACTER, I SHOULD STAY NEAR ITS OWNER.
IT'S EXACTLY AS HE SAYS!
BA (FWIP)
...YOU'RE RIGHT!
HEY.

...WHY WAS I SO...
AND YET...


GON (WHUNK)
I SEE... I'VE GOT IT, VANITAS!

...I JUST DON'T LIKE YOU VERY MUCH!!
I SUS-PECT...

UH... YES, WHAT SHOULD WE DO, HM?
FOR MY TEACHER'S SAKE, I SHOULD PROBABLY GO WITH YOU, BUT LISTENING OBEDIENTLY TO SOMEONE I DON'T LIKE IS BAD FOR MY MENTAL HEALTH, OR RATHER, IT'S PHYSIOLOGICALLY IMPOSSIBLE!
WHAT SHOULD I DO!?

GACHA (CLANK)
ガチャ
キィ…
KII (CREAK)
!
HUH ...?
WE AREN'T ABLE...
...TO HOLD YOU HERE ANY LONGER.
OUT.
SFX: FUAAAA (YAAAWN)
THEY KEPT US LONGER THAN I THOUGHT THEY WOULD.
????!?
.....
BATAN (SLAM)
バタン

HUH?
AS FAR AS HUMANS ARE CONCERNED, YOU VAMPIRES ARE "FORGOTTEN BEINGS" NOW...
...SO VAMPIRE-RELATED INCIDENTS THAT OCCUR ON "THIS SIDE" HAVE TO BE COMPLETELY ERASED.

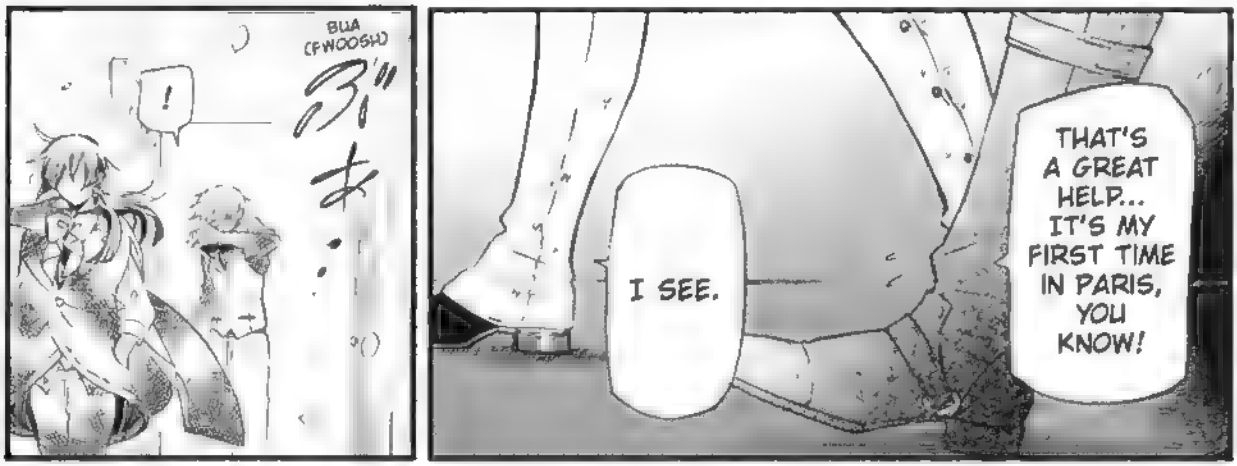
YOU MEAN THEY'VE HUSHED IT UP?
KA (TAK)
YES, PRETTY MUCH.
KA
THE VAMPIRES PROBABLY ARRANGED THINGS WITH THE HUMANS.

...THIS IS AN INVITATION FROM THE COUNT.

GOOD. IN THAT CASE, I'M SURE...
PAS

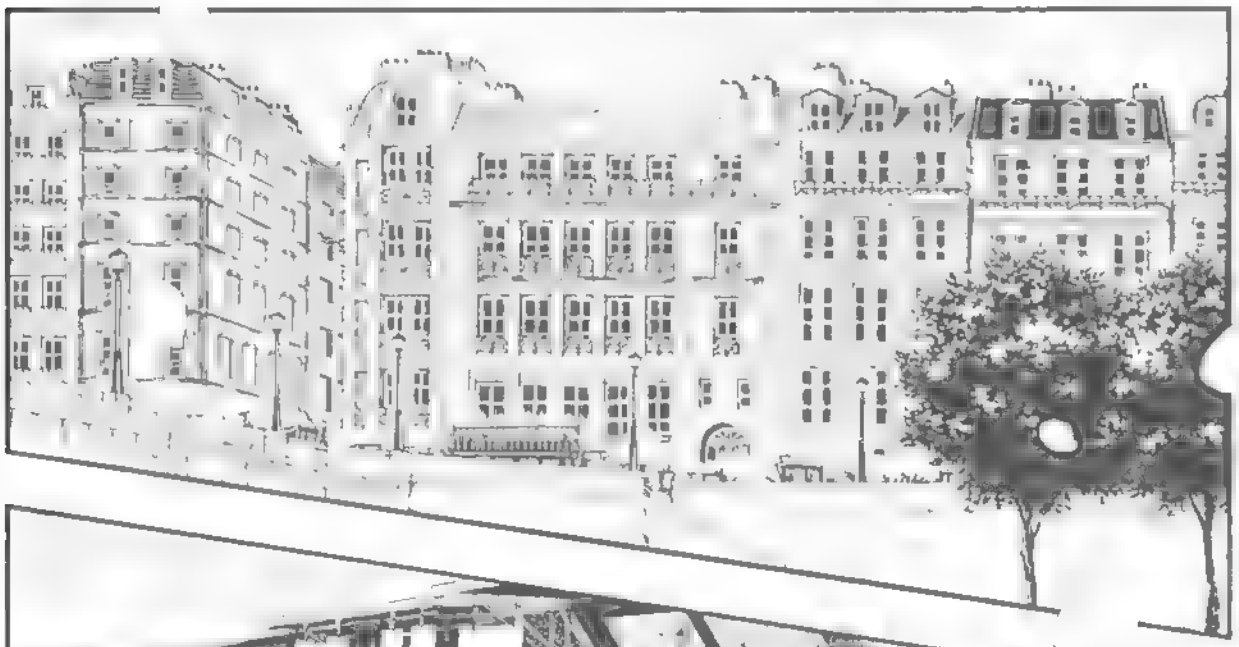
...MLLE AMELIA IS ALSO...
NOÉ...

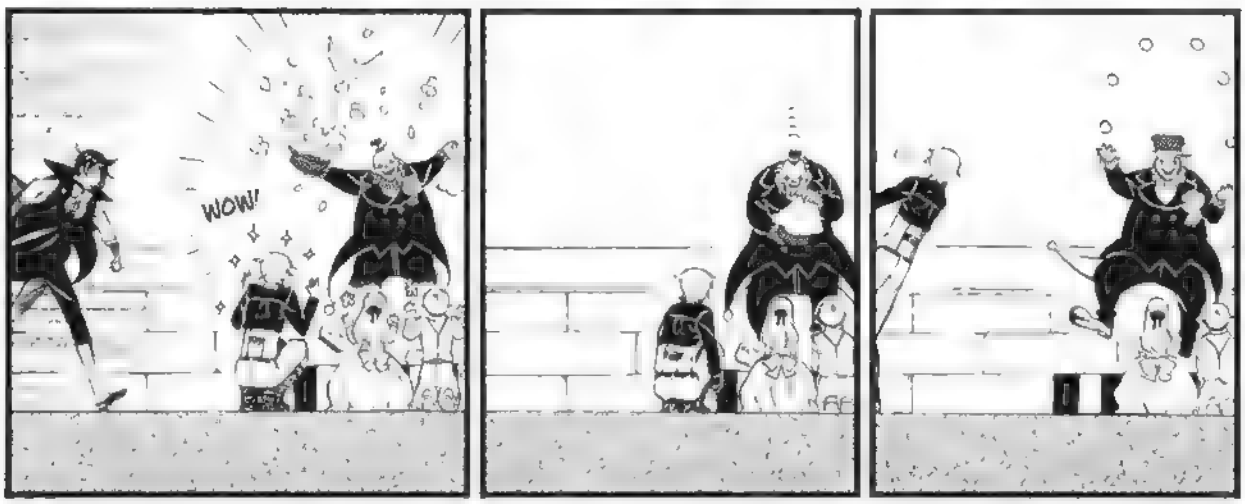
!!
MURR
!!
COME WITH ME. I'LL TAKE YOU THERE.
HE HAS MY THINGS TOO.
DO YOU MEAN IT!?
HE SAYS TO COME TO THIS ADDRESS TO COLLECT OUR CONFISCATED POSSESSIONS AND THE THINGS WE LEFT ON THE AIRSHIP.
THE COUNT ...?


BUA (FWOOSH)
!
I SEE.
THAT'S A GREAT HELP... IT'S MY FIRST TIME IN PARIS, YOU KNOW!

...TO PARIS, THE CITY OF FLOWERS.

WELCOME...

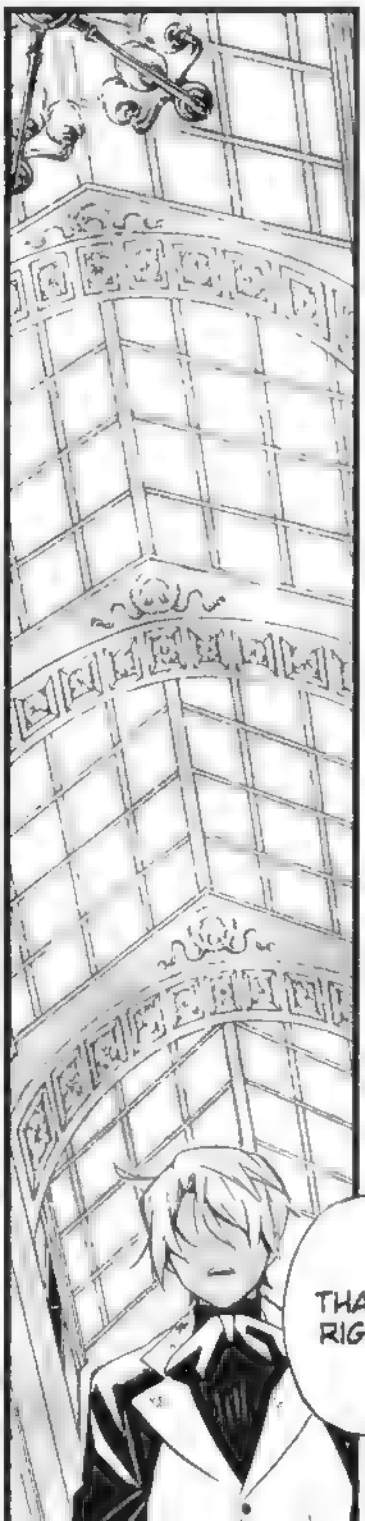



WOW!

THE GALERIE VALENTINE.
GALERIE VALENTINE
—THIS IS IT.

...WHY ARE YOU SO TIRED, VANITAS?
ZEE (WHEEZE)
BECAUSE SOMEBODY KEPT DISAPPEARING THE MOMENT I TOOK MY EYES OFF HIM!
ZEE
WHAT ARE YOU, A CHILD!?

AFTER THE OLD WAR...
...VAMPIRES WERE FORBIDDEN TO DRINK HUMAN BLOOD, AND MOST OF THEM DISAPPEARED BEYOND THE BORDER.


THAT'S RIGHT.

THE VAMPIRE WHO HAD US RELEASED IS HERE?

EVEN SO, MANY VAMPIRES STILL LIVE IN THE HUMAN WORLD.

THAT'S THIS MAN—
...TO KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE ON VAMPIRE ACTIVITIES HERE IN PARIS AND TO PRESERVE THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE HUMAN AND VAMPIRE WORLDS.
THERE IS ONE APPOINTED BY THE QUEEN...

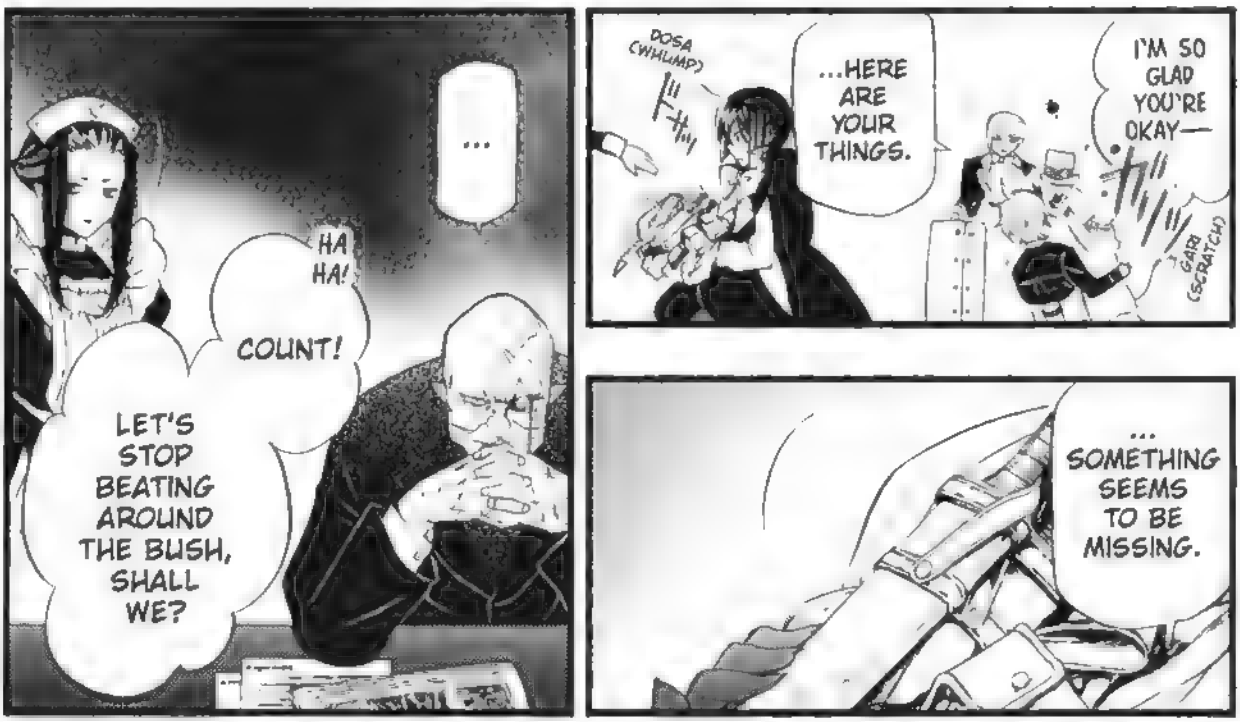
KII (CREEEAK)
...COUNT PARKS ORLOK.
LORD OF THE OTHER WORLD...

ZA
SWISH
DON'T MOVE.

ANYONE TOO ILL-MANNERED TO KNOCK MIGHT AS WELL BE AN INTRUDER.
SILENCE.
THAT'S QUITE THE WELCOME. YOU SUMMONED US, YOU KNOW.
...
(RUSTLE)
...I SEE.
IT WAS A SIMPLE TECHNIQUE.
I UNLOCKED IT.
LOCKED? AH...
THAT DOOR WAS LOCKED.
SO YOU'RE THE HUMAN WHO'S PASSING HIMSELF OFF AS "VANITAS."
GI (CREAK)

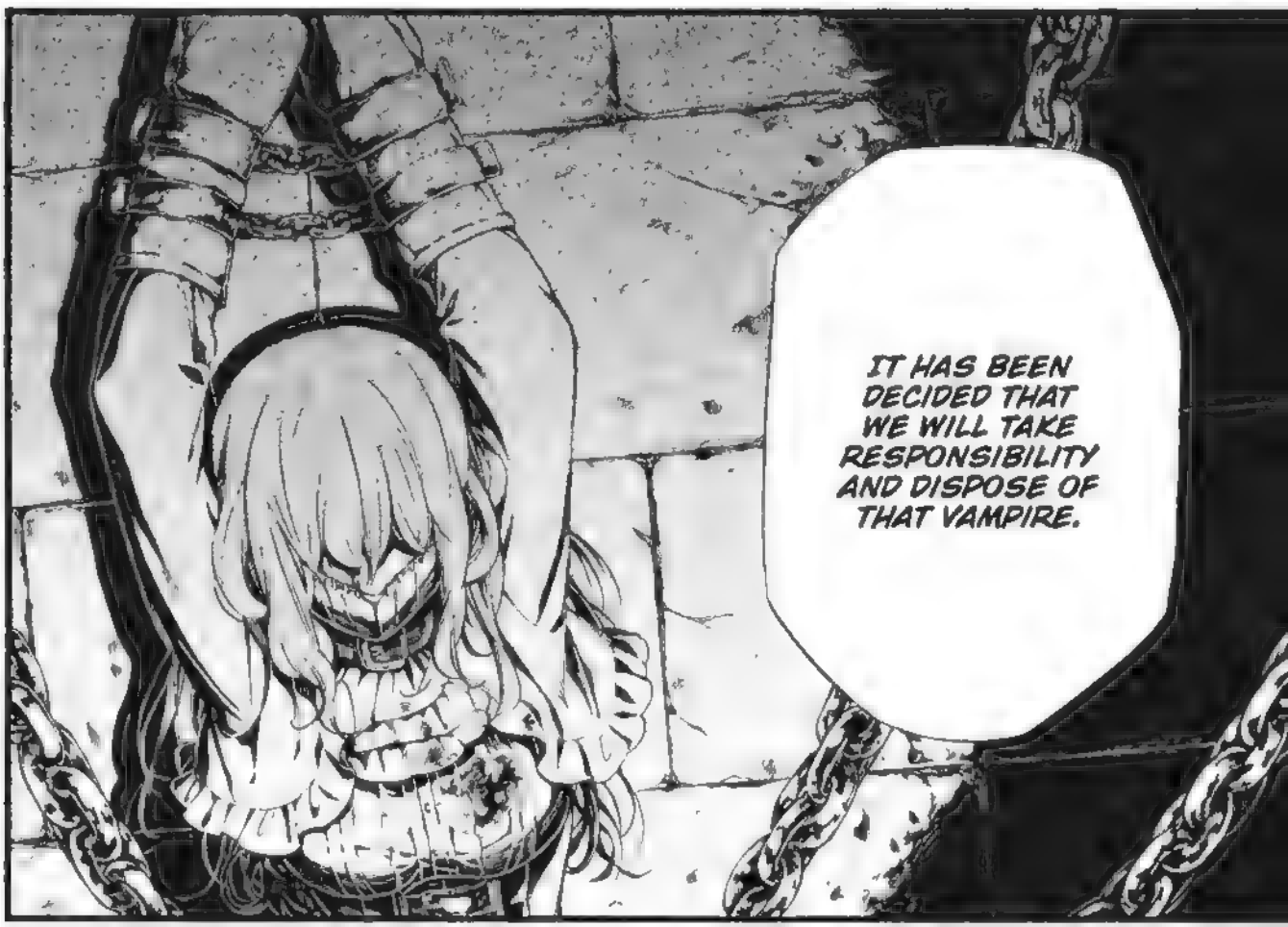
THEY TELL ME YOU ACTIVELY SEEK OUT AND MAKE CONTACT WITH CURSE-BEARING VAMPIRES.
I'VE HEARD MUCH ABOUT THIS "HUMAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF A VAMPIRE DOCTOR."

!!
MURR!
MROOOOWR.
CURSE-BEARING ...
DORO (OOOO)


...
HA HA!
COUNT!
LET'S STOP BEATING AROUND THE BUSH, SHALL WE?
DOSA (WHUMP)
...HERE ARE YOUR THINGS.
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY—
GARI (SCRATCH)
... SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE MISSING.

DOSA
KYU (SQUEEZE)
YOU CAN'T REALLY HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON ME.
CORPSES COMPLETELY DRAINED OF BLOOD!
VAMPIRE APPEARS IN PARIS!!
THE CULPRIT BEHIND THE SERIAL MURDERS HASN'T BEEN CAUGHT YET, HAVE THEY?
A VAM-PIRE..?
...!?
I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS TO ASK HER.
I'LL THANK YOU NOT TO TAKE LIBERTIES WITH MY FORMER PATIENT.
...I'LL BE BLUNT.
RETURN THE BOOK OF VANITAS AND AMELIA RUTH TO ME.

HUH ...?
...MLLE AMELIA IS ALL RIGHT... ISN'T SHE?
VANITAS ...
I THOUGHT... SHE'D ALREADY BEEN SET FREE, LIKE US...
... THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.


IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT WE WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND DISPOSE OF THAT VAMPIRE.

MLLE AMELIA IS ALREADY CURED!
COUNT, WAIT! PLEASE!
ONCE THE BOURREAU ARRIVES, THE FORMALITIES WILL—
WA—
WE CANNOT ALLOW CURSE-BEARERS TO LIVE.
! THAT'S RIGHT.
JARA (CLINK)
BY... THIS BOOK, WAS IT?
... CURED ?
GARA (RATTLE)
DAN (BAM)
BALDERDASH!!
I SAW HIM RESTORE MLLE AMELIA WITH THE POWER OF THE BOOK OF VANITAS...
...SO—

HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
AH!
HA!
HA!

DO YOU TAKE THAT MAN'S NONSENSE SERIOUSLY?
CURSED GRIMOIRES DO NOT EXIST! THIS THING IS MERE RUBBISH!

I, ITS OWNER, AM THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN EVEN OPEN THE BOOK, YOU SEE!
WHILE YOU HAVE IT, IT'S MERE RUBBISH.
PRECISELY!

WHY, YOU...!
COULDN'T YOU JUST SAY, "PLEASE TEACH ME HOW TO USE THE BOOK"?
I EXPECT I WAS SUMMONED BECAUSE YOU MANAGED TO STEAL THE BOOK BUT DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO USE IT.

PLOTTING!? I RESENT THAT!
I CALLED YOU HERE TO MAKE YOU CONFESS WHAT THE MAN WHO CLAIMS TO BE VANITAS IS PLOTTING.
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.

DON'T GET CONCEITED, HUMAN!!
SAVE US...?

AND HERE I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOU VAMPIRES FROM THE PATH OF DESTRUCTION.

ARE YOU THAT RELUCTANT TO ADMIT THAT THE BOOK OF VANITAS EXISTS!?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TRICKERY YOU USED, BUT SHE'S SURE TO TURN VIOLENT AGAIN SOON.
SHE MERELY HAPPENED TO BE CALM.
YOU'VE SPOKEN WITH AMELIA, HAVEN'T YOU? IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PERFECTLY OBVIOUS THAT SHE WAS IN HER RIGHT MIND.

THAT HAS BEEN OUR WAY SINCE THE OLD DAYS!
UPON DISCOVERY, CURSE-BEARERS MUST BE ISOLATED AND BEHEADED BY A BOURREAU.

CURSE-BEARERS ARE BEHEADED BY BOURREAUS. THAT'S THE RULE.
"WHY"...? BECAUSE SHE'S BECOME A CURSE-BEARER.
THEY'RE EXECUTING MINA TOMORROW!? NO...WHY!?

SAVE HER? HOW?
CAN YOU ERASE THE BLUE MOON'S CURSE?
YOU KNOW IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
I HAVE TO GO SAVE HER, RIGHT NOW!
HUH? DON'T BE AN IDIOT.

...NOÉ.
YOU CAN'T SAVE HER...
LISTEN, HUMAN!!

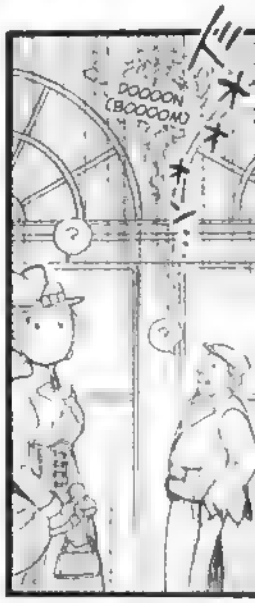
!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR A VAMPIRE WHOSE TRUE NAME HAS BEEN DEFILED TO RETURN TO NORMAL!!
HAH!
THIS IS EXACTLY THE PROBLEM WITH SENILE OLD FOOLS WHO CHAIN THEMSELVES TO PAST CONVENTIONS AND STOP THINKING!!
YOU WRETCH !!!

NOT ONE SINGLE THING.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.

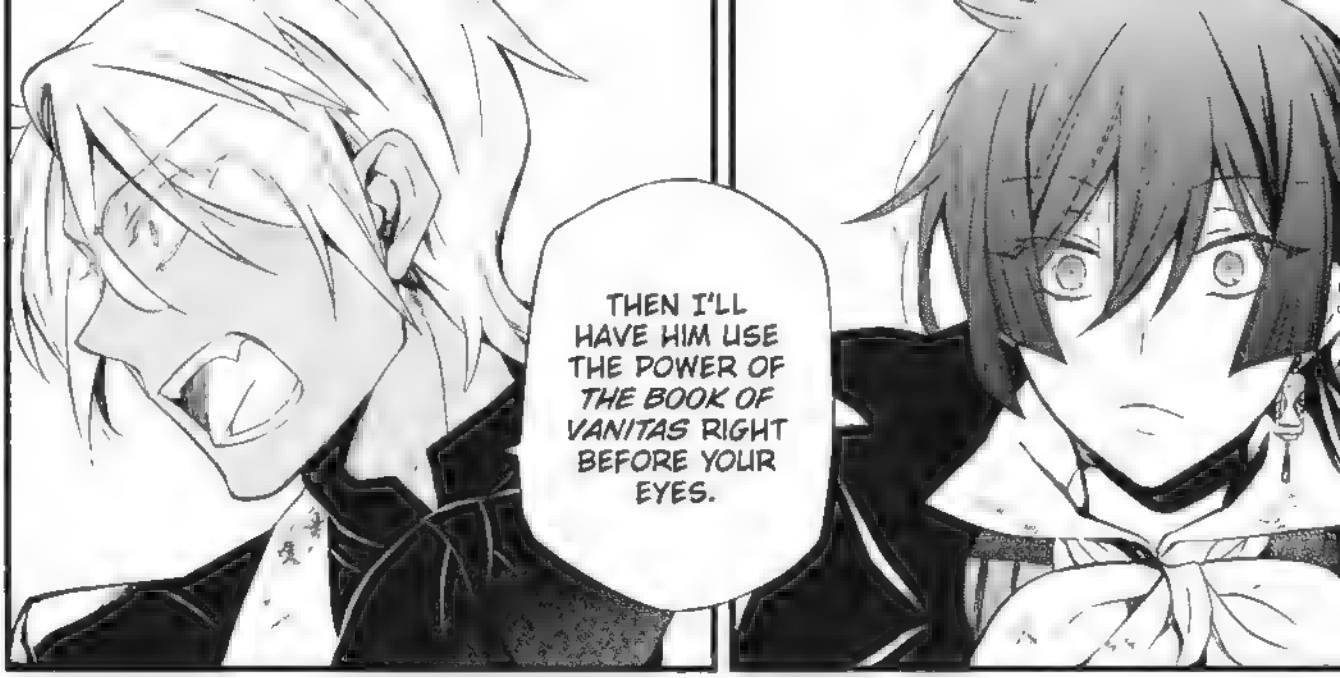
GO (BOOM)

GAAN
(CRAAASH)

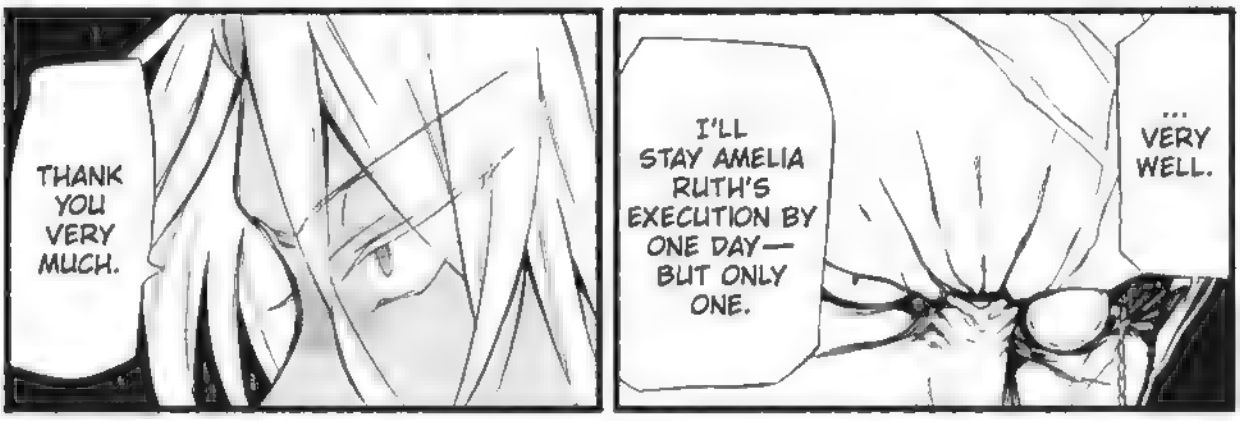
PARA
(CLATTER)
BASA
(FLIP)
BASA
PARA


DOOOON
(BOOOOM)

ALL RIGHT.
.....
THEY'RE THE WORK OF A CURSE-BEARER, AREN'T THEY?
THE VAMPIRE INCIDENTS THAT ARE THE TALK OF PARIS RIGHT NOW...
!
JARA (CLINK)
THEN LET'S DO THIS.
...WE'LL CAPTURE THE CULPRIT AND BRING THEM HERE!
IN THAT CASE...


THEN I'LL HAVE HIM USE THE POWER OF *THE BOOK OF VANITAS* RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES.

YOU SAY YOU CAN'T TRUST HIS WORD...
...OR MINE, EVEN THOUGH I'M OF YOUR RACE.
THEN SEE WHAT *THE BOOK OF VANITAS* TRULY IS WITH YOUR OWN EYES!


... VERY WELL.
I'LL STAY AMELIA RUTH'S EXECUTION BY ONE DAY— BUT ONLY ONE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

BUT, SIR!
ARE YOU CERTAIN ABOUT THIS, MASTER PARKS?
... IT'S FINE.

BASH!! (SMACK)
WHY ARE YOU SPACING OUT? LET'S GET MOVING, VANITAS!!
BWUH!?

HUH...? OHHHHHH!? HAVE YOU FINALLY DECIDED TO HELP ME, NOÉ!?
NO!!
HUH?

YOU ARE HELPING ME!!
I AM NOT HELPING YOU.

PFFT!
HA HA HA!
AH HA HA HA!

NOT ONE SINGLE THING.

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.

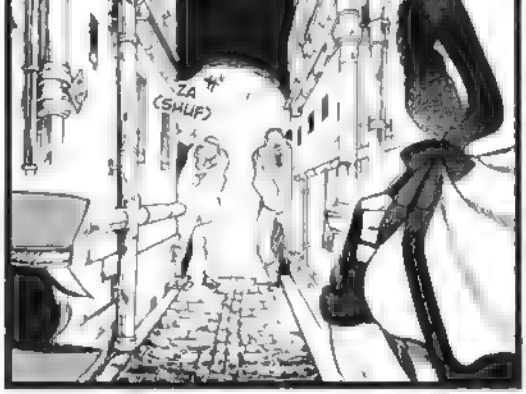
THAT'S NOT TRUE.

THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.

THIS TIME, FOR SURE...

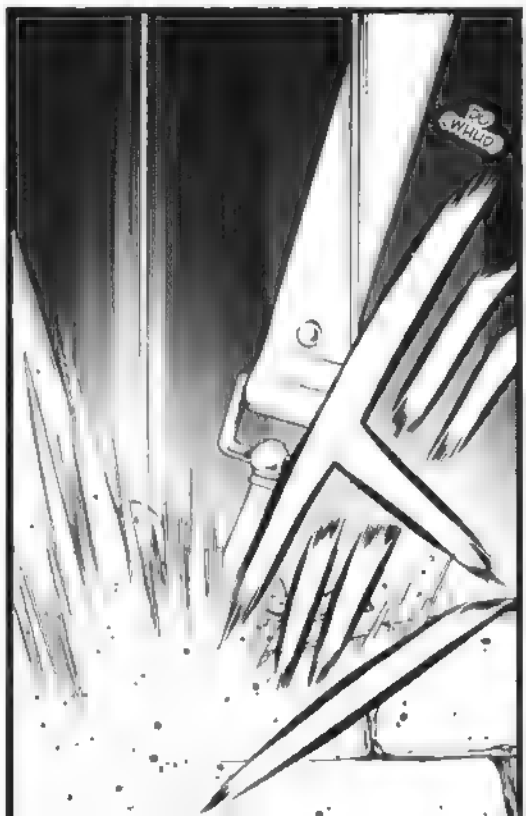
...I'LL SAVE HER!!

BRILLIANT! I KNEW IT. YOU REALLY ARE INTERESTING!

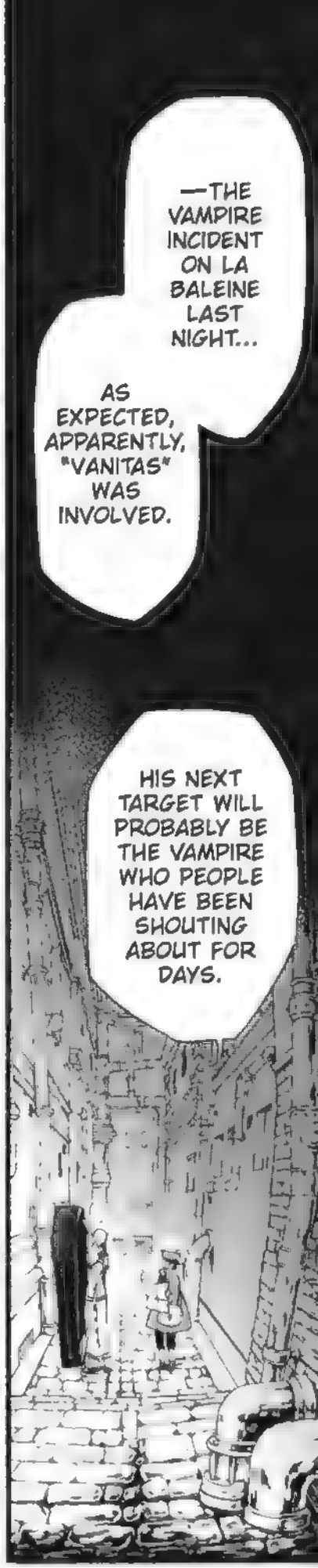

ZA (SHUF)

KEH KEH
CHA (CHAK)

ROB-BERS... PER-HAPS?


BO WHUO

I HOPE HE MANAGES TO CONNECT WITH THEM, BUT...
PIKU (TWITCH)
MASTER LUCA.


—THE VAMPIRE INCIDENT ON LA BALEINE LAST NIGHT...
AS EXPECTED, APPARENTLY, "VANITAS" WAS INVOLVED.
HIS NEXT TARGET WILL PROBABLY BE THE VAMPIRE WHO PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SHOUTING ABOUT FOR DAYS.

HAAH...

...!?

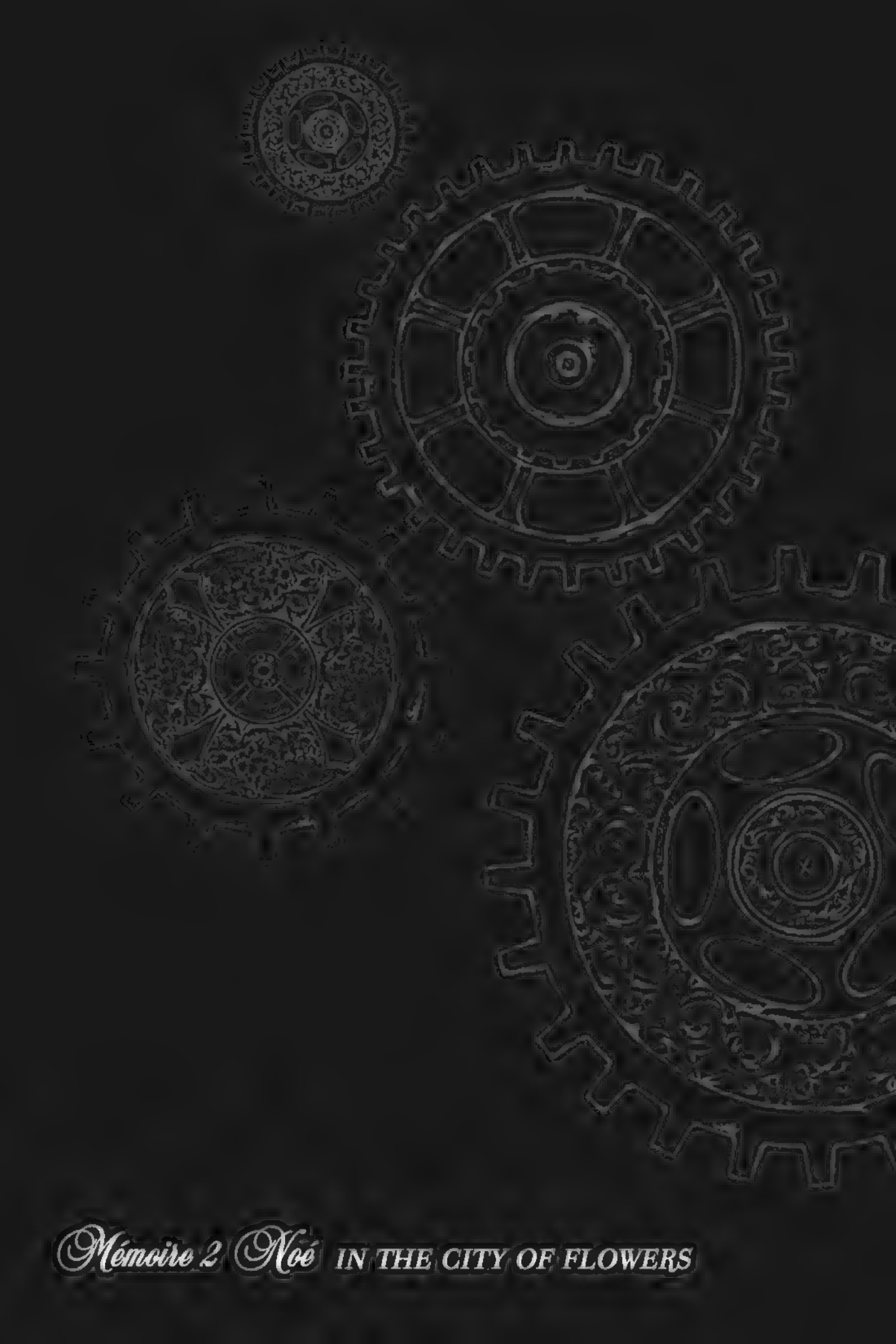
...JEANNE.

GU (KRIK)
NO MATTER WHO TRIES TO HARM YOU...
...EVEN IF IT'S THE CURSE-SPREADING BLUE MOON VAMPIRE...
GO

HOWEVER... I CAN'T FORGIVE ANYONE WHO TURNS THEIR BLADE ON YOU.
YEEE!
GU (GRIT)
GU
GO

I KNOW I'M REPEATING MYSELF, BUT YOU MUSTN'T KILL, ALL RIGHT!?
GO (THUD)
GU AH!
DOSU (FWUMP)
YES...
BOKI (SNAP)
YEEE

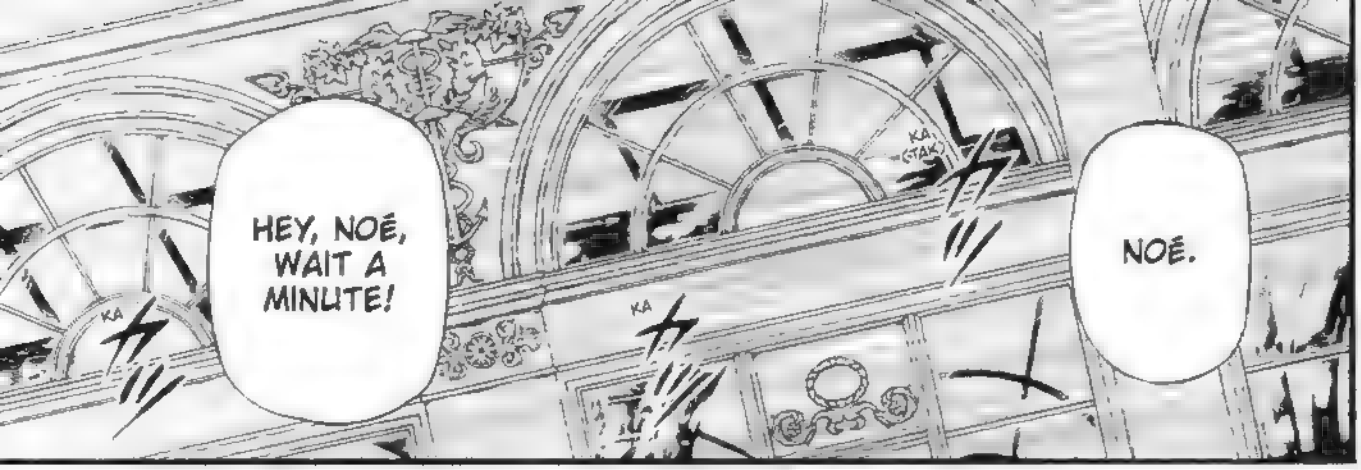
...I WILL...
...CRUSH THEM ALL.



Mémoire 2 Noé IN THE CITY OF FLOWERS

Los Memorias de Vanitas

THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS


HEY, NOÉ, WAIT A MINUTE!
KA (TAK)
NOÉ.

KA
KA
KA
KA
WHAT !?
...DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHERE TO GO?
NO, I DO NOT !!!
OF COURSE YOU DON'T !!
I THOUGHT NOT!

BASA
!?
BASA (FLAP)

WELL, FOR NOW, CALM DOWN.
I'LL THANK YOU NOT TO PULL ON ME!

BASA
A BAT ...?
BASA
BASA (FLUTTER)
HEY.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE, VANITAS.
DANTE!
OH. IT'S THE MAN WHO WAS WITH VANITAS ON THE AIRSHIP ...

MISER!
I DON'T DO MORE WORK THAN I GET PAID FOR.
MY CONTRACT WITH YOU FOR THAT DAY DIDN'T INCLUDE PROTECTING THE TARGET.
YOU...! YOU LEFT AMELIA RUTH AND RAN AWAY BY YOURSELF, DIDN'T YOU!?
GALERIE VALE
CAN IT, QUACK!

WHOA! WHY'RE YOU WITH THAT LAD, HUH!?
THIS GUY IS DANTE.
HE'S AN INFORMATION BROKER I USE FREQUENTLY... OR RATHER, HE'S A JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES WHO'LL DO PRACTICALLY ANYTHING AS LONG AS YOU PAY HIM.
SIGH..
UM ...
I SUPPOSE I'D BETTER INTRODUCE HIM TO YOU, NOE.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE, DANTE, BUT YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK!
I'VE ALREADY FOUND A NEW "SHIELD" TO REPLACE YOU!
AH HA HA HA HA!!!
SAY WHAT? HUH? THAT GUY!?
AND I NEVER WAS YOUR SHIELD!!
NO, HE HASN'T.
AAH... "BALDY," WAS IT?
HEY. DON'T YOU DARE REMEMBER ME LIKE THAT.
AND I'M NOT BALD
HE'S STRONGER AND STURDIER THAN YOU, AND HE DOESN'T COST MONEY!
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT, DANTE!? UNLIKE YOU, HE'S THE PERFECT PARTNER!!
NO, I'M NOT.

JUST WHEN I'D FIGURED OUT WHERE THE "NINE-FOLD MURDERER" IS AND COME TO FIND YOU. YEAH, IT'S A REAL SHAME!

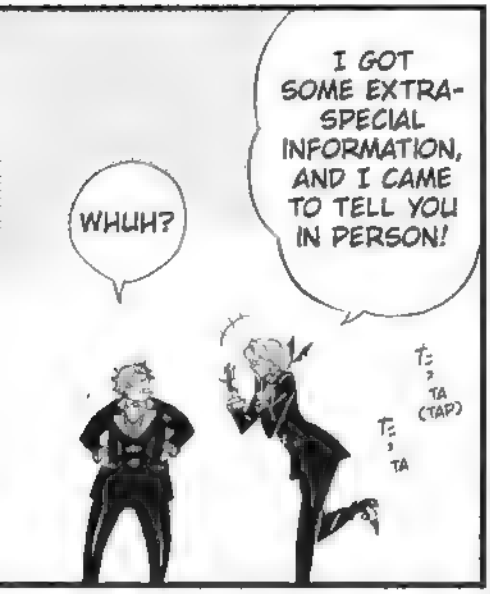
IS THAT RIGHT? I SEE. THAT'S TOO BAD.
...
IF YOU WANT TO EARN POCKET MONEY, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO ELSEWHERE.
HEH... I'M SORRY, DANTE, BUT THAT'S HOW IT IS.

MASTER DANTE, I LOVE YOU!!!
SPLENDID FELLOW! I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT! YOU'RE SO INCREDIBLY COOL!!
ZAWA (MUTTER)
ザワ…ザワ…
HISO
HISO (WHISPER)
...

WE JUST NEED TO FOLLOW THIS BAT, THEN?
PATA (FLUTTER)
PATA
YOU GOT IT.
THIS LITTLE GUY WILL TAKE YOU TO THAT FRIEND.
MY FRIEND IS TAILING THE "NINE-FOLD MURDERER" AS WE SPEAK.
I SEE.
... RRGH ...
YOU COMPLETELY SKINNED ME FOR THAT INFORMATION, BALDY!!
SHADDUP! YOU THOUGHT INFO EVEN OLD ORLOK DOESN'T HAVE WAS GONNA BE CHEAP!?
PE
PE (PTOOIE)
KYORO
KYORO (PEEK)
...IT WILL BE FASTER TO GO OVER THE TOP.
HUH?
!?
PYOON (BOING)
PYON
WHAAAAAAA!?

ALL RIGHT.
LET'S HURRY, VANITAS.
UH...
UH- HUH...
DYON
DYON (BOING)
...SERIOUSLY, WHAT THE HECK IS THAT GUY?
IS THAT "VANITAS"?
スタ…
SUTA (TMP)

TCH!
...
WHAT, YOU FOLLOWED ME?
HE HAS A PRETTY DISHY FACE, DOESN'T HE?♡
KA (TAK)


WHUH?
I GOT SOME EXTRA-SPECIAL INFORMATION, AND I CAME TO TELL YOU IN PERSON!
TA (TAP)
TA

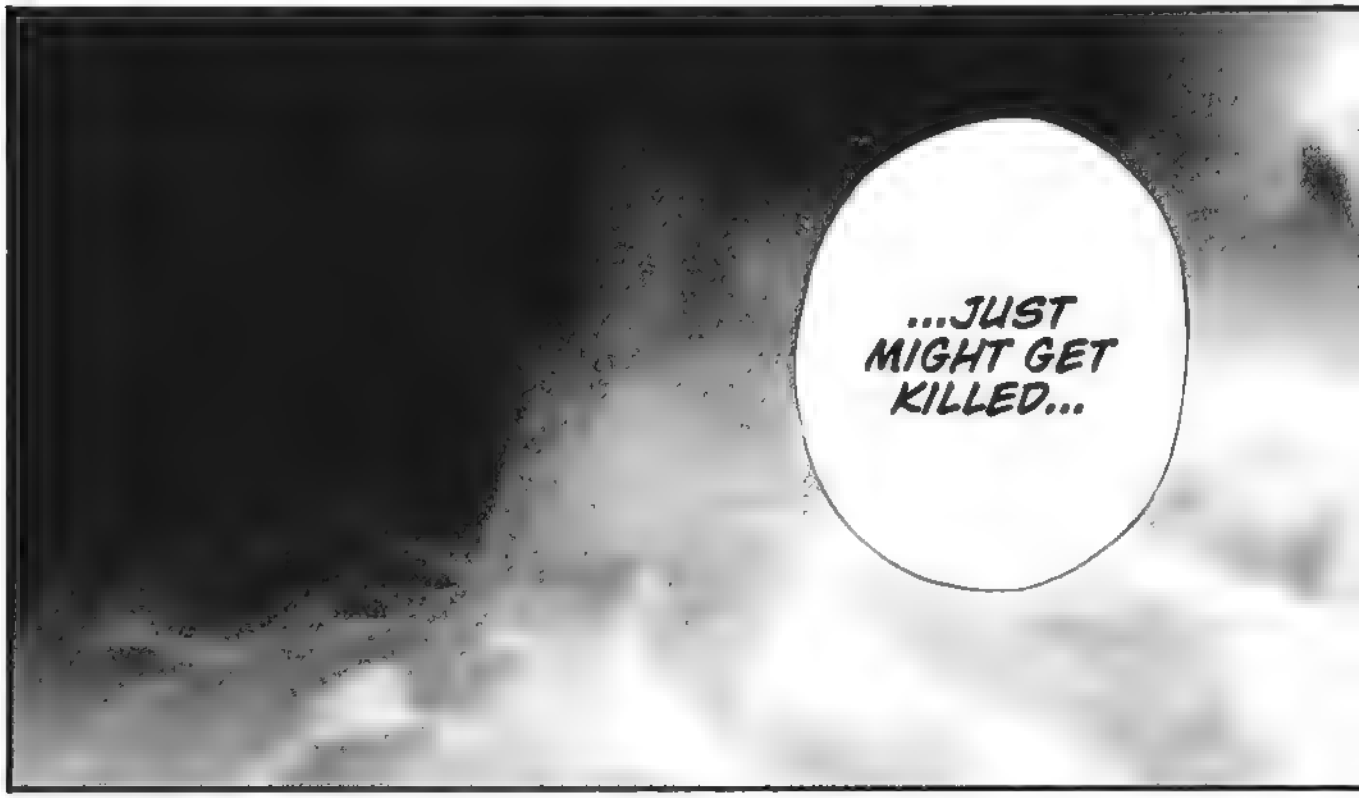
GUH (HANK)

JOHANN.
MY, HOW RUDE.

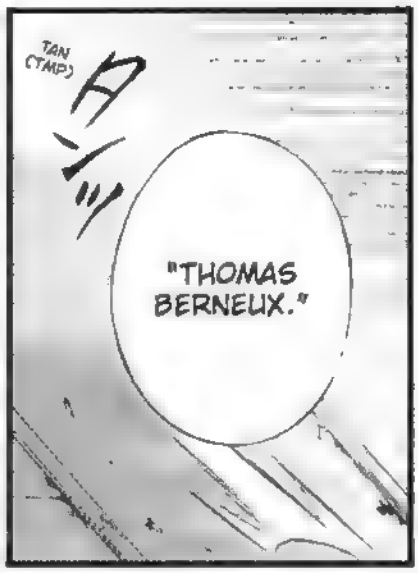
LORD RUTHVEN'S BOURREAU IS IN PARIS RIGHT NOW.

HEE-HEE...
THAT FRIEND OF YOURS...

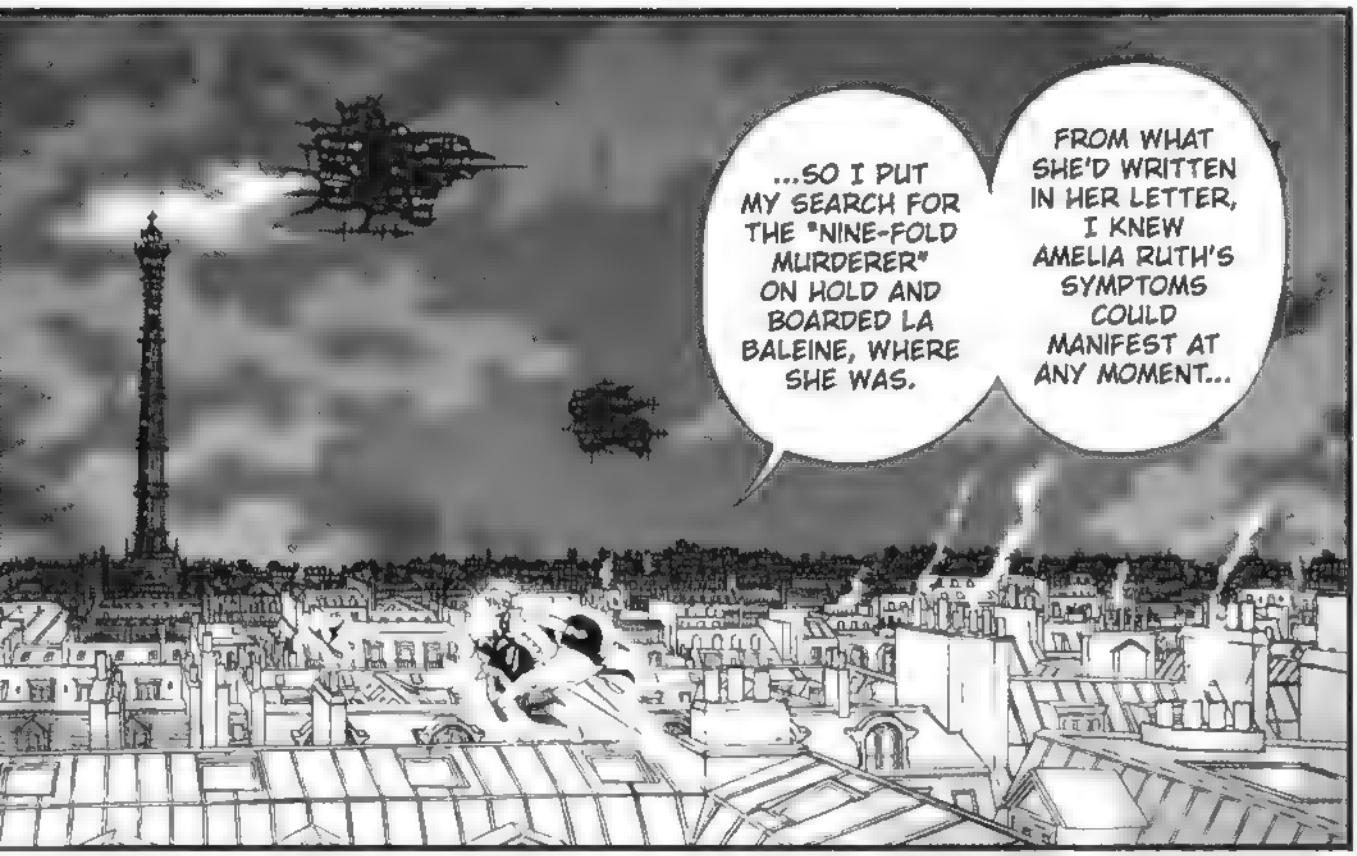
NO DOUBT THEY'RE AFTER THE BOOK OF VANITAS.
HUH ...!?


...JUST MIGHT GET KILLED...

THAT'S THE NAME OF THE VAMPIRE WHO APPEARED FROM BEYOND THE BORDER TWO MONTHS AGO AND DEVOURED NINE PEOPLE IN RAPID SUCCESSION.
BEG YOUR PARDON ?


TAN (TMP)
"THOMAS BERNEUX."

I'M... ON MY WAY TO SEE A DOCTOR NOW.
AH! THEN YOU WERE THE DOCTOR MLLE AMELIA MENTIONED!
OUI.
I ALREADY HAVE INFORMATION ON HIM.
I'D BEEN CHASING THAT VAMPIRE RIGHT UP UNTIL I RECEIVED THAT LETTER FROM AMELIA RUTH.


...SO I PUT MY SEARCH FOR THE "NINE-FOLD MURDERER" ON HOLD AND BOARDED LA BALEINE, WHERE SHE WAS.
FROM WHAT SHE'D WRITTEN IN HER LETTER, I KNEW AMELIA RUTH'S SYMPTOMS COULD MANIFEST AT ANY MOMENT...

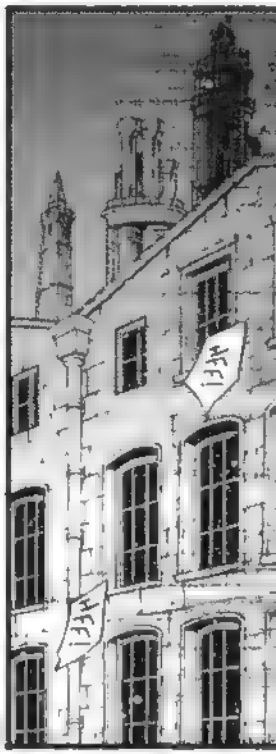
IF HE'S GOING TO ACT AGAIN, IT WILL PROBABLY BE TODAY.
HIS PREVIOUS CRIMES SUGGEST THAT THOMAS BERNEUX'S FITS ARE CYCLICAL.

!
DOOM (BOOM)

HURRY, NOÉ!
THAT'S THE RIVERSIDE FACTORY DISTRICT.

DOGOOM (KABOOM)
EEK!

HEH!


HEH!
HEH!

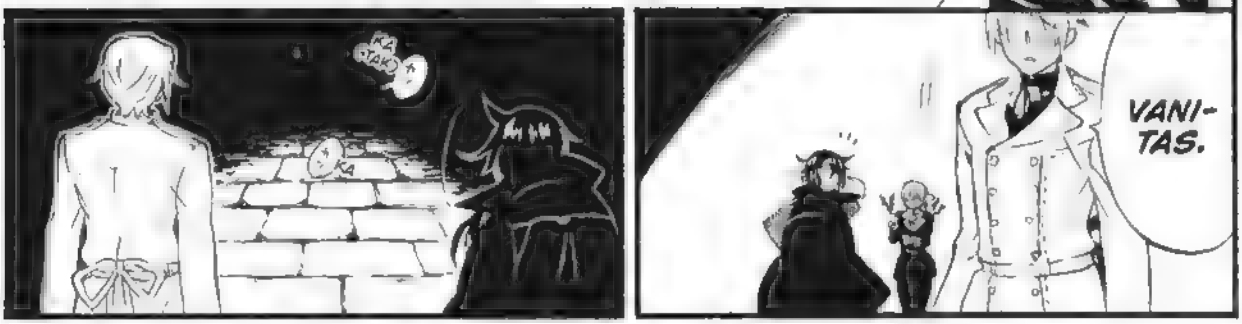
! THERE!
UU
GRRR...
STOP HIM, NOÉ!
ZUSHIN (STOMP)
THAT'S THOMAS BERNEUX, ALL RIGHT.
HUH!?
GUN! (YANK)
UNDER-STOOD!!

AAAA

ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME!!?
HEY!
GA (THUD)
GARA (RATTLE)
PARA (FLUTTER)
PARA
PARA
PARA
PARA
NOÉ, KEEP HIM PINNED LIKE THAT!
JYARA (JANGLE)
AAAAH!!
AAAH!
GU (RRGH)
GU
GU
GU
BA (PAAP)

KA
CLASH!
—I ADMINISTERED A SHOCK. HE'S TEMPORARILY PARALYZED.
WE'LL TIE HIM UP NOW AND TAKE HIM BACK TO ORLOK.
PHEW
GOOD...
I'M GLAD WE GOT IT SETTLED SO QUICKLY.

HE REALIZED HE WAS BEING TAILED AND LURED YOU INTO A DESERTED AREA, AM I RIGHT?
SOMETHING TO TIE HIM UP WITH. SOMETHING
YES... THANK YOU. YOU SAVED ME.
ARGH
OWWW
YOU MUST BE DANTE'S FRIEND.
PAN
PAN (BRUSH)
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YORO (STAGGER)
NOW WE'LL BE ABLE TO SAVE MADEMOISELLE AMELIA...


KA TAK
VANI-TAS.

TO THINK YOU'D SEAL A CURSE-BEARER'S MOVEMENTS INSTANTLY LIKE THAT.
KA
...THAT WAS AMAZING.

YOU'RE... "VANITAS," CORRECT?

I'M LUCA.
HER NAME IS JEANNE.

KA (TAK)

OH, EXCUSE ME.
HUMANS? VAMPIRES?
... WHAT'RE YOU TWO?
A CHILD ...?
...IT'S IMPUDENT OF ME, BUT I'VE COME TO ASK A FAVOR.
MON-SIEUR VANITAS ...
WE'RE VAMPIRES.
...THE BOOK OF VANITAS... WOULD YOU GIVE IT TO ME?
THAT BOOK...

NO!
THIS BOOK ISN'T A TOY FOR LITTLE KIDS LIKE YOU!!
GOO (GOOD)

...WHY DO YOU WANT IT?
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS?
OF COURSE.
THE BOOK OF VANITAS IS A CATASTROPHIC BOOK THAT WILL BRING DESTRUCTION UPON VAMPIRES ...
GYU SQUEEZE
BECAUSE ITS POWER MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO INTERFERE WITH VAMPIRES' TRUE NAMES, IT HAS BEEN CALLED "AN ANALYTICAL ENGINE IN THE SHAPE OF A BOOK."
ALL THE WHILE, IT IS AN EVIL DEVICE THAT CREATES THE BEINGS KNOWN AS CURSE-BEARERS...!

...!?

...I'M SPREADING THE CURSE AROUND, USING THE BOOK OF VANITAS?
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY?
IT IS.
OR... YOU YOURSELF MAY BE A VICTIM, AFFLICTED BY THE POWER OF THAT BOOK.

WHAT ...?
I'M TOLD THAT THERE'S A TYPE OF GRIMOIRE THAT TAKES CONTROL OF ITS BEARER'S CONSCIOUSNESS THE INSTANT IT'S PICKED UP.
IF YOU ARE UNCONSCIOUSLY BEING USED BY THAT BOOK, IT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT...

AS ITS BEARER, IT'S LIKELY THAT YOU'LL RECEIVE APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT AS WELL.
...THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE THE CURSED IS TO DISPOSE OF THE BOOK OF VANITAS BY THE PROPER METHOD.

PIKU (TWITCH)

ALTHOUGH, YOU'RE FREE TO DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE TO THIS MAN...!
HEY.
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T KILL HIM!!
YOU CAN'T DISPOSE OF THAT BOOK!
BA (FWIP)
WAIT, PLEASE!
AH!
I DON'T HAVE ANY TIME EITHER !!
I APOLOGIZE, BUT LET'S DISCUSS THIS ANOTHER TIME...
WE'RE IN A GREAT HURRY.
...SOMEONE VERY PRECIOUS TO ME HAS BECOME A CURSE-BEARER AND IS SUFFERING.
... RIGHT NOW...

IF THE BOOK OF VANITAS DISAPPEARS, THERE WON'T BE ANY CURSE-BEARERS ...?
(JYARA (ANGLE)
WHO FED YOU THAT COCK-AND-BULL STORY?
I'M BEGGING YOU, GIVE ME THAT BOOK!
THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE THAT PERSON IS TO RID THIS WORLD OF THE BOOK OF VANITAS.

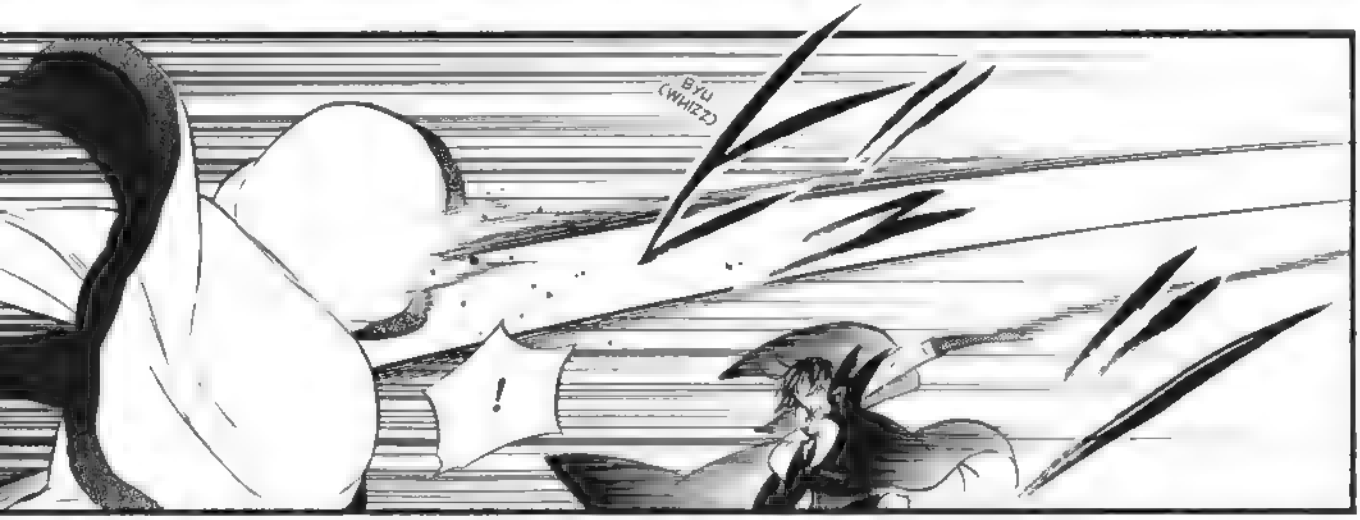
I'LL EXAMINE THEM AS SOON AS I'VE HEALED THIS PATIENT.
IF YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR "PRECIOUS SOMEONE," TAKE ME TO THEM.
I'M USING THE POWER OF THIS BOOK TO SAVE VAMPIRES!
LISTEN TO ME. I AM A DOCTOR!
WHAT ...?

THE CURSE OF THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON IS WHY MY OLDER BROTHER IS SUFFERING!
TAKE YOU TO HIM!? DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
MASTER LUCA.

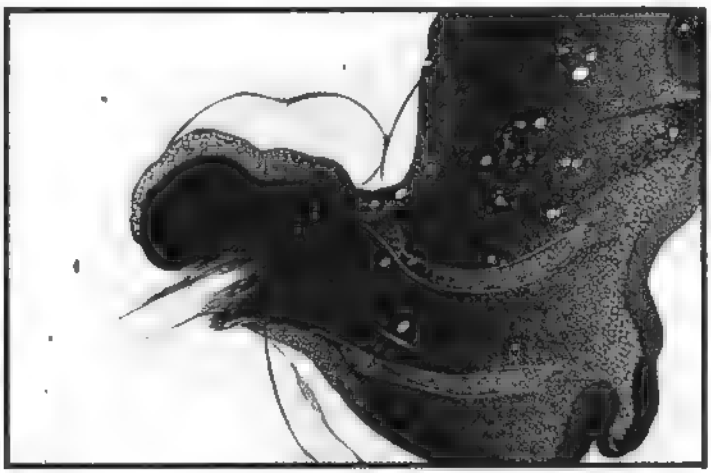
SO YOUR BROTHER'S BECOME A CURSE-BEARER?
...HM.
HA (GASP)

...!?
DOGO (CRUNCH)
JEANNE !?
...FURTHER TALK IS POINTLESS.
MASTER LUCA...

BUN
(WHIRR)
PLEASE
GIVE ME
AN ORDER.


BYU
(WHIZZ)
!

JEANNE
!!



...YOU WON'T GIVE US THAT BOOK, NO MATTER WHAT...?
MONSIEUR VANITAS...
JEANNE ...
.....
...PLEASE.
I KNOW. I'LL DO MY BEST TO TAKE HIM ALIVE.

OUI, VOTRE ALTESSE.
THE BOOK OF VANITAS ...
TAKE IT FROM HIM!

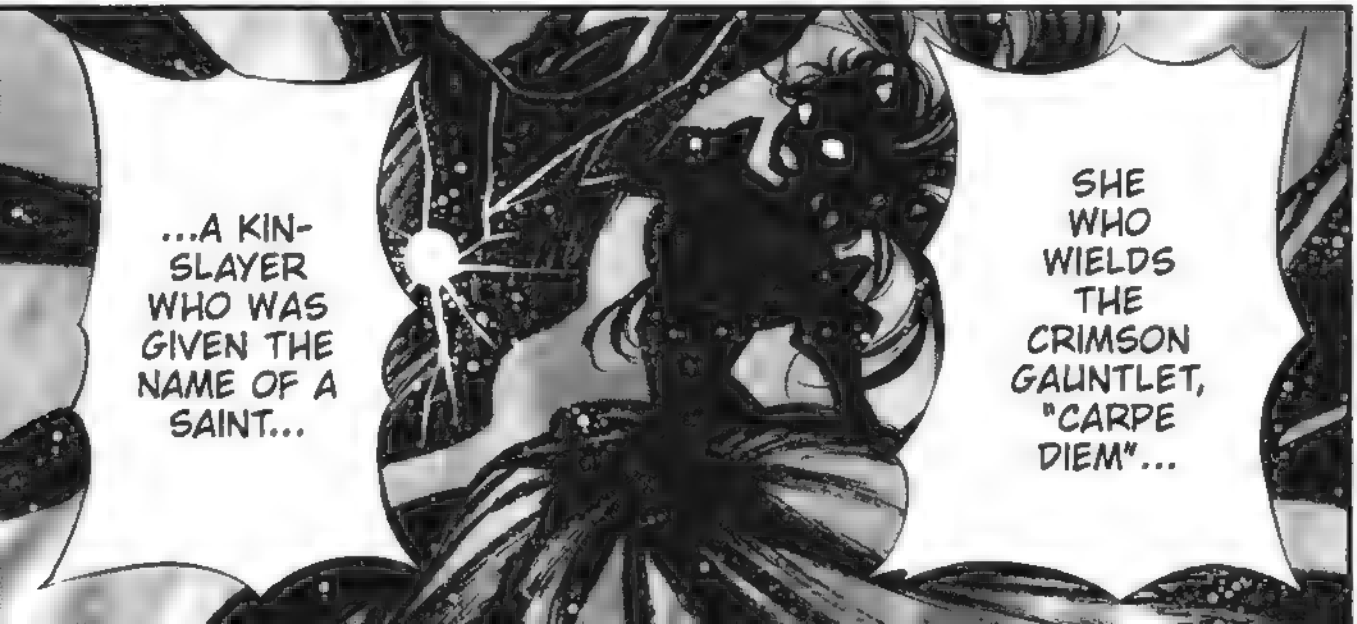
ZO (SHUDDER)
ZO
A CRIMSON... GAUNTLET ...!!
PACHIN (SNAP)
...NOT GOOD. WE'RE RUNNING, NOÉ!
HUH ?
THAT WOMAN IS LORD RUTHVEN'S BOURREAU!

COULD YOU BE ANY MORE OF A COUNTRY BUMPKIN!?
HUH ...?

LISTEN TO ME!!
WAIT!

DA (DASH)
AH.

...IT'S SAID THAT ONE SINGLE BOURREAU WIPED THEM ALL OUT!
DURING THE WAR LONG AGO, WHEN MORE THAN A THOUSAND VAMPIRES BETRAYED THEIR COMRADES AND SIDED WITH HUMANS...


...A KIN-SLAYER WHO WAS GIVEN THE NAME OF A SAINT...
SHE WHO WIELDS THE CRIMSON GAUNTLET, "CARPE DIEM"...

PACHIN (SNAP)

...THE "HELLFIRE WITCH," JEANNE!!

GO
(FOOM)
!!

I DO
(BOOM)

...THE SLIGHTEST INTENTION OF TAKING ME ALIVE !!
I DOUBT SHE HAS ...

...!

GARA
(CLATTER)
GARA

GASHI (GRAB)
GU
I CAN'T LET YOU DIE ON ME YET...!
GU (RRGH)
GU
NOÉ!

BWO (WOOM)

GURUN (SPIN)
!?

KACH. (CLICK)
KOOOO (WHOOO)
GU
!
POSA (WHUMP)

OH CRAP.

NOÉ, RUN!!

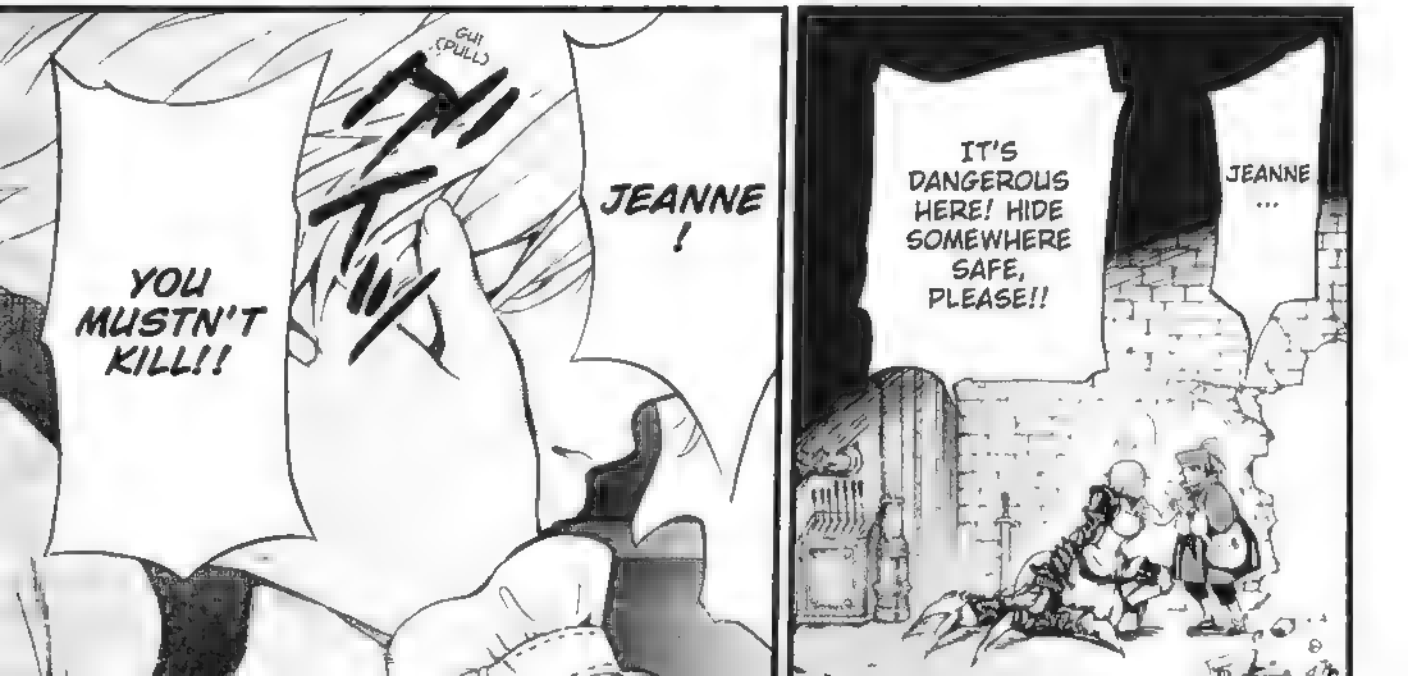
GOOOO (WOOOOSH)
SHUUU (HISSES)
PARA (CLATTER)
PARA
...!

KA (FLASH)
WHERE DID HE GO?
KORO (ROLL)
KORO
!
GIRII (GRIT)
...
HEH!
HEH!

DOON (BOOM)
DOON
?
THAT WAS AMAZING...! I'VE NEVER SEEN A WEAPON LIKE THAT BEFORE.
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE IMPRESSED !
DOON

JEANNE !!
NOÉ!
GA (RAKE)

MASTER LUCA!?


GUI (PULL)
YOU MUSTN'T KILL!!
JEANNE !
IT'S DANGEROUS HERE! HIDE SOMEWHERE SAFE, PLEASE!!
JEANNE ...

YOU'RE MY CHEVALIER, REMEMBER ...!?
YOU AREN'T A BOURREAU ANYMORE!

YES ...
I'M VERY SORRY, MASTER LUCA.

FIRST COUNT ORLOK, AND NOW THOSE TWO... CITY VAMPIRES REALLY DON'T LISTEN WHEN PEOPLE ARE TALKING, DO THEY?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THAT'S THE USUAL VAMPIRE REACTION TO THE BOOK OF VANITAS.
NOÉ, TAKE OFF YOUR COAT. I'LL STOP THE BLEEDING.
IT ISN'T A PROBLEM. THE BLOOD WILL STOP ON ITS OWN IF WE LEAVE IT ALONE.
...WELL, VAMPIRES' POWERS OF RECOVERY ARE FAR BEYOND HUMANS', BUT...
AFTER ALL, MOST CURSE-BEARERS THINK WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THEIR BODIES IS THE CURSE OF VANITAS.
...EVEN WHEN I FIND A PATIENT, I DON'T TELL THEM ABOUT THE BOOK OF VANITAS OR GIVE MY NAME.
...FOR THAT REASON ...
IT'S NORMAL FOR VAMPIRES TO HAVE BOTH KNOWLEDGE AND FEAR OF THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON DRUMMED INTO THEM.
HUH ...?
...WHAT THAT BOY SAID ISN'T ENTIRELY WRONG.
BE-SIDES ...
.....

IT'S TRUE THAT THE BOOK OF VANITAS CAN INTERFERE WITH VAMPIRES' TRUE NAMES.
IF THAT INTERFERENCE WARPS TRUE NAMES, THEY BECOME MALNOMEN ...
...WHILE INTERFERING WITH MALNOMEN AND MAKING THEM TRUE NAMES AGAIN IS WHAT I CALL "TREATMENT."

...IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S ALL IN HOW IT'S USED.
THAT MEANS IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR VAMPIRES TO FEAR THIS BOOK.
... BUT ...

...WHETHER YOU "CAN" OR NOT AND WHETHER YOU "DID" OR NOT ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ISSUES!

THANK YOU...!
EVEN IF THE BOOK OF VANITAS TRULY WAS MADE IN ORDER TO DESTROY VAMPIRES...
...IT'S AN UNDENIABLE FACT THAT YOU SAVED MADEMOISELLE AMELIA BACK THEN!

TO ME... THAT SIGHT WAS SOMETHING OVERWHELMINGLY "RIGHT"!

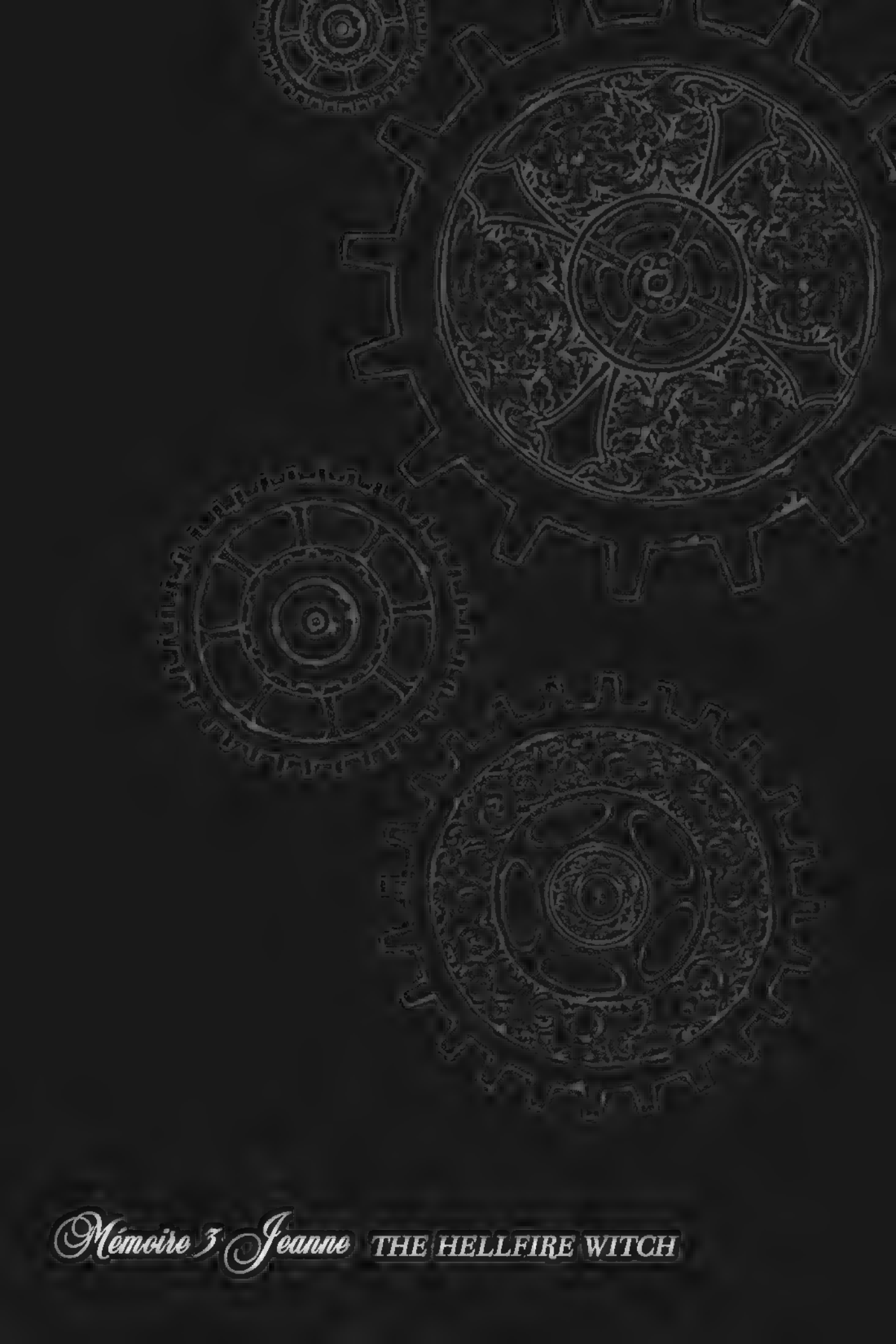
PFFT!
...I WANT TO HURRY AND GO BACK TO SAVE MLLE AMELIA!
... AND SO ...
...

SFX: MISHI (SQUIRM) MISHI
MRK GLL RRGH RK GHL LMR GH!
SERIOUSLY!? SHE'LL FIND US ...
HA- HA- HA- HA- HA- HA- HA!
!
HA- HA- HA- HA!

...ARE AN INTERESTING FELLOW...
BWA-HA!
...YOU REALLY...
HUH ...?
BI (JAB)
WHAT ARE YOU SAY—
?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHETHER IT'S GOING TO WORK, BUT... WELL, IF IT WILL LET US GET BACK FAST, WE HAVE NO CHOICE!
ALL RIGHT!
I'VE STEELED MYSELF, NOÉ!

I'VE FOUND ONE. JUST ONE.

A WAY TO WIN AGAINST THE HELLFIRE WITCH ...



Mémoire 3 Jeanne THE HELLFIRE WITCH

Les Mémoires de Vanitas

WHAAAT!? YOU SET RICHE TRAILING A CURSE-BEARER!?
WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME WERE YOU THINKING!?
RICHE
WHADDAYA MEAN, "WHAT"?
SHE SAID TO LET HER HELP, SO I LET HER TAKE THE JOB, THAT'S ALL.
SHE WAS OBVIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU BECAUSE OF ALL YOUR IDIOTIC STUNTS!
OOOOH, RICHEEEE! PLEASE BE ALL RIGHT!
TCH!
...TALK ABOUT OVER-PROTECTIVE. LET HER TAKE CARE OF HERSELF.
SHUT UP, YOU IMBECILE!
THIS IS WHY I CAN'T STAND BRUTES WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND A GIRL'S FEELINGS!!

JEANNE ...!

MÉMOIRE 4

DA
DA (TMP)
GO (FOOM)
DO (WHAM)

WHERE IS VANITAS ...!!?
WHERE DID HE GO!?

- BARIN (CRAAASH)
RIGHT HERE!!

GUN (YANK)
WHOA !?

PASHI
BYUN (WHIZ)
WHOA!
NICE CATCH, NOÉ!
MAY I THROW YOU BACK!?
DON'T!!

GARA (CLATTER)
GASHA (CRASH)

GUI (TUG)

GA (THWAK)
GA
GA

...SHE'S FAR TAMER THAN I THOUGHT.
TRUE. BUT...
SHE'S AMAZ-ING.
HER REACTIONS ARE SO QUICK, IT'S HARD TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT GAUNTLET.
GASHA (CLANK)
THE PLAN IS AS I TOLD YOU EARLIER, NOÉ.
WELL, THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT.
GOO (FWOOM)
KOOOOOO (SHWOOO)

I'LL DO THAT!
PLEASE GO ON AHEAD!
!
I REFUSE!
MOVE !!
BUN (WHIP)
BYU
BYU (ZWIP)

!
...SHE'S NOT AS STRONG AS MY TEACHER ...!
SHE REALLY IS STRONG.
BUT...
I CAN DO THIS.
EVEN ON MY OWN —!

DOK-A
(BADUM)
!
GURLIN
(SPIN)
BUN
(WHIP)
DOGOO
(KABOOOM)
URK!

PARA (CRUMBLE)
KURU (FWIP)
...
GARA (CLATTER)
DO (THUD)
GARA
GU (CLENCH)
DI (TMP)
TA
TA
TA
.....?
BORO (RAGGED)

NOW... LET'S SEE.
RICHE!

!
THAT'S ...
SHH! BE QUIET, JOHANN!
RICHE! OH, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE!
GASHI (GLOMP)
DANTE! JOHANN!
DA (DASH)
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA

WAIT, WHAT ...!? THE HELLFIRE WITCH ...!?
THE QUACK AND—

PIKU (TWITCH)
"MASTER LUCA'S ORDERS" ...HM?
PACHIN (SNAP)
I HAVEN'T KILLED HIM.
DON'T WORRY.
ZA (CRUNCH)
...HMM. FINISHED NOÉ OFF ALREADY, DID YOU?

WHAT A DISAP-POINT-MENT.

THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON OFTEN TOLD ME STORIES OF THE "HELLFIRE WITCH"...

...THE YOUNG WARRIOR MAIDEN...
...WHO RACED OVER BATTLEFIELDS, MERCILESSLY ROUTING HER OWN KIND—
HE SAID YOU WERE SO BEAUTIFUL IT MADE HIM SHUDDER.
AFTERWARD, THEY PUT YOU INTO AN INDUCED SLUMBER.
WHEN I HEARD LORD RUTHVEN HAD AWAKENED YOU AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I WAS THRILLED, AND YET...
...I NEVER IMAGINED YOU'D HAVE DEGENERATED THIS MUCH!
.....
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

I'M SAYING I'M TIRED OF PLAYING WITH YOU.
!?
...OH, THAT'S RIGHT. I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET, HAVE I?
(THUD)
MY NAME IS VANITAS.
I AM A MERE HUMAN WHO INHERITED THE NAME AND *THE BOOK OF VANITAS* FROM THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON—

AND AS ONE FROM WHOM THAT VAMPIRE ONCE DRANK, MY BODY HAS BEEN INVESTED WITH A PORTION OF HIS POWER.
I BELONG TO THE CLAN OF THE BLUE MOON .....!

I...
...HAD HOPED TO AVOID USING *THIS POWER* IF POSSI-BLE.

ZO (CHILL)
HELL-FIRE WITCH.
ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU MY "TRUE FORM" ...!
HIS TRUE... FORM ...!?
WATCH HIS EVERY MOVE —!
ZA (STEP)
THIS CAN'T BE GOOD.
STAY ON YOUR GUARD.
WHY DID HE LET GO OF THE BOOK?
WHAT COULD IT BE, THIS POWER GRANTED BY THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON?

GARA (CLATTER)
...!
JEANNE!
BA (WHAP)
!?
DO... (THOOM)

!?
THE NINE-FOLD MUR-DERER ...!?

GAE! (CHOMP)
……!!
ZU (SUCK)
JURU (SLURP)
GAN
GAN (WHAM)
RRGH ...!

JUST AS I THOUGHT.
YEP!
FIGHTING MONSTERS IS BEST LEFT TO OTHER MONSTERS!
BACHI (SNAP)

...!
WHOA!
...IT WAS ALL A BLUFF TO KEEP MY ATTENTION ON HIM...!?
DO (THUD)
...ACTING LIKE HE WAS ABOUT TO DO SOME-THING PROFOUND ...
LETTING GO OF THE BOOK OF VANITAS...
HITTING A WOMAN RIGHT IN THE GUT WITHOUT A HINT OF MERCY...
USING A CURSE-BEARER AS A PAWN THOUGH... THAT'S...
I SEE... HE WAS BUYING TIME UNTIL THOMAS BERNEUX'S PARALYSIS WORE OFF.
WHAT A JERK.

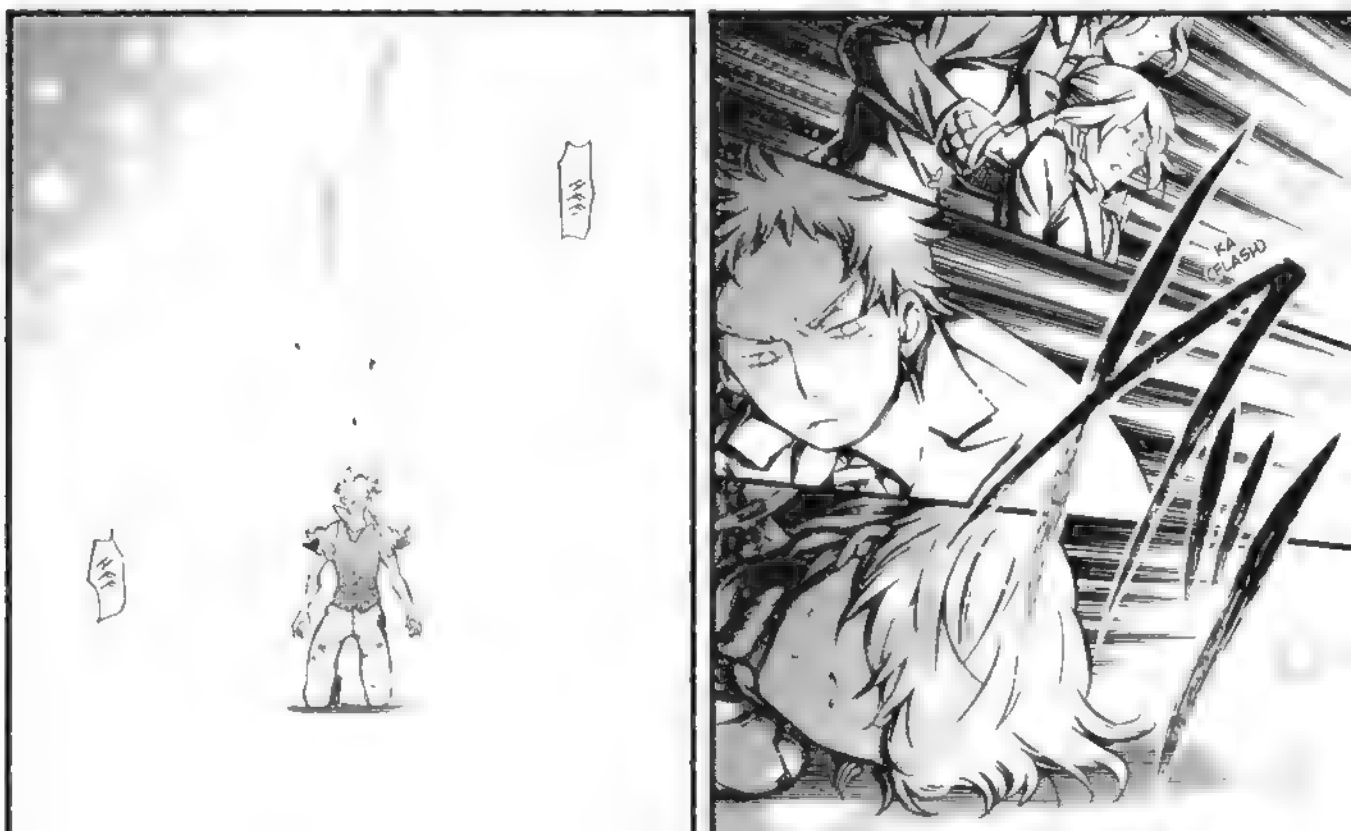
...FALLEN WITCH.
JUST STAY QUIET AND WATCH FROM THERE...
AS IF I'D REALLY HAVE...
ZA (STEP)
...SUCH A CONVENIENT ACE UP MY SLEEVE.

...I'VE KEPT YOU WAITING, NINE-FOLD MURDERER.
NOW...

YOUR HABIT OF PROWLING IN SEARCH OF THE LIFEBLOOD OF YOUNG WOMEN ON MOONLIT NIGHTS...
YOUR LUPINE APPEARANCE...

MAL-
NOMEN—
LOUP-
GAROU,
WOLF WHO
HUNTS
CRIMSON.
INVERSE
OPERATION!!
LET'S GET
HIS TRUE
NAME
RETURNED.
SHALL WE?
INITIATE!
NOW,
THEN!
BA-
BAM

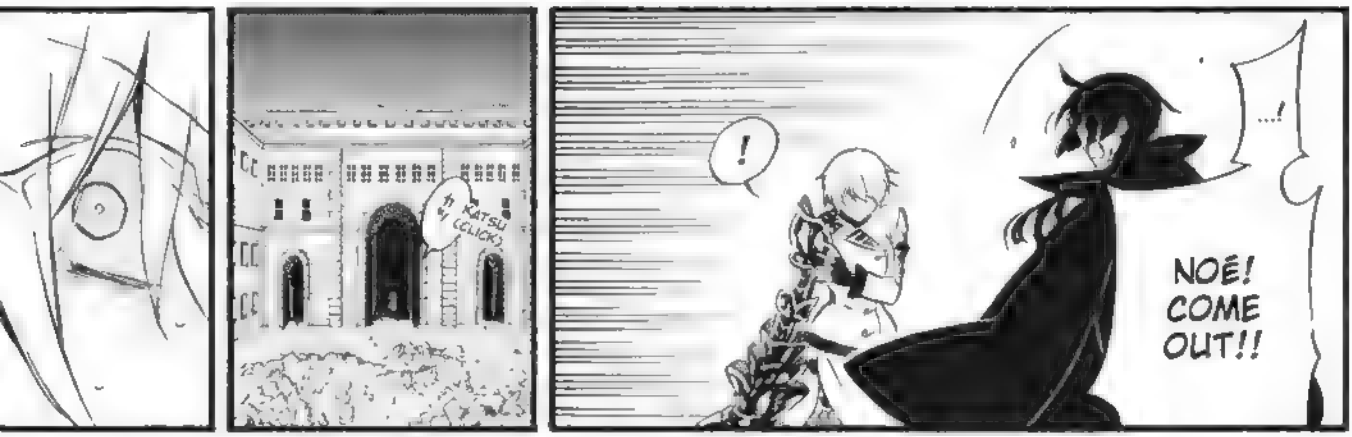
"BUCOLICUS," HE WHO COMPOSES IDYLLS!
...SO THIS IS YOUR TRUE NAME, IS IT?


KA (FLASH)

WHAT ...
... WAS I—?
DOSA (FWUMP)
...IN-CREDI-BLE ...!
TCH!
THIS GUY...
I WAS SUPPOSED TO CURE HIM IN ORLOK'S PRESENCE .....
GH. DRAT.
NO NEED.
SUIKU (STAND)
MY SISTER AND I WATCHED IT ALL, AS COUNT ORLOK'S EYES.
WE WILL TELL MASTER PARKS WHAT TOOK PLACE HERE, JUST AS WE SAW IT.
NI (GRIND

ZA
(CRUNCH)
.....
YOU MUST BE JOKING.
YOU TOOK POISON FROM LOUP-GAROU'S FANGS...
...AND THE SAME PARALYSIS I INFLICTED ON BERNEUX ...!
(UUU PANT)
HAH...
HAAH...
NOT ...
... YET.

I... CAN STILL... FIGHT ...!!


KATSU (CLICK)
!
...!
NOÉ! COME OUT!!

MASTER LUCA ...!!?
MMPH!
MMPH!
.....!!

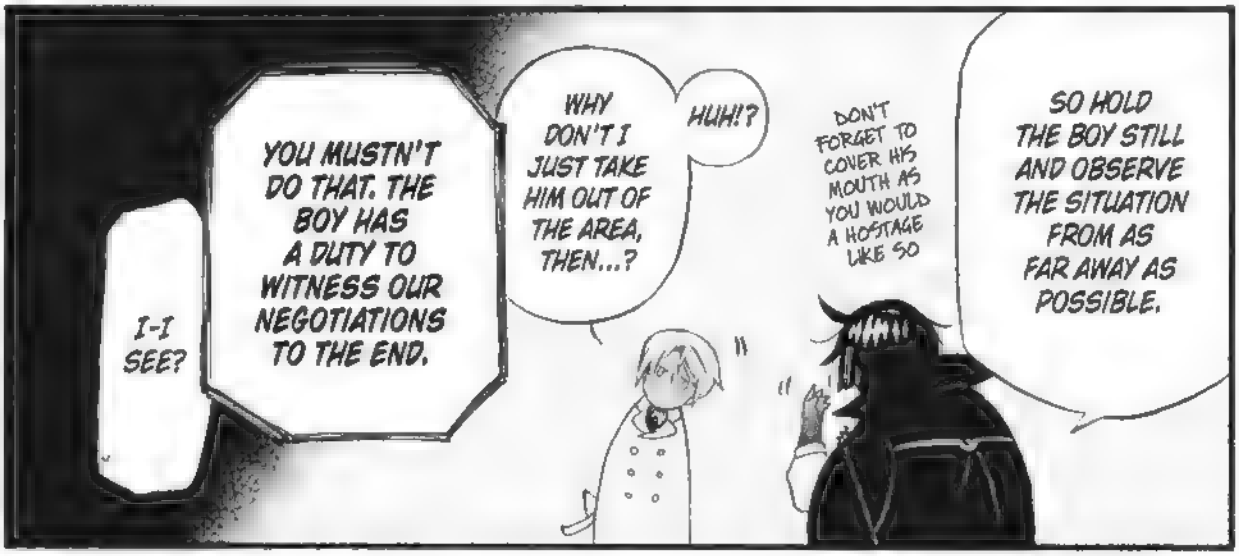
(DON (THUD)
YOU CATCH MY MEANING, DON'T YOU...?
ALL RIGHT... HELLFIRE WITCH.

...AND MY UNDERLING WILL SNAP THAT BRAT'S SCRAWNY NECK IN A HEARTBEAT ...!
JUST TRY AND MAKE ONE FALSE MOVE...

THIS GUY REALLY IS A JERK...

—LISTEN HERE, NOÉ. COLLAR THAT LUCA KID SOMEHOW.
THEY'RE TOO FAR. I CAN'T TELL WHAT THEY'RE SAYING.

YOU CAN DO THAT!?
TO DO IT, I'LL USE THE BOOK OF VANITAS TO CREATE AN AREA WHERE VAMPIRES CAN'T FIGHT.
YES... HOWEVER, THE POWER WOULD PLACE A GREAT BURDEN ON A CHILD'S BODY.
I'M ABOUT TO OPEN NEGOTIA-TIONS WITH THE WITCH.
FOR THE BOY'S OWN SAFETY.
COLLAR HIM? WHAT FOR?


I-I SEE?
YOU MUSTN'T DO THAT. THE BOY HAS A DUTY TO WITNESS OUR NEGOTIATIONS TO THE END.
WHY DON'T I JUST TAKE HIM OUT OF THE AREA, THEN...?
HUH!?
DON'T FORGET TO COVER HIS MOUTH AS YOU WOULD A HOSTAGE LIKE SO
SO HOLD THE BOY STILL AND OBSERVE THE SITUATION FROM AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE.

YOU SAID YOU COULD DEFEAT THE HELLFIRE WITCH WITHOUT FIGHTING, AND I BELIEVE YOU—!
PLEASE DO YOUR BEST, VANITAS.

DON'T!!
WAIT!

JUST
...

YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU WANT TO ME, SO JUST—
.....

I LOSE!
I WON'T DO ANYTHING MORE!

...DON'T... HURT HIM...!!
... PLEASE ...

ZOKU (SHUDDER)
...
HEH!
HA HA HA!
SO THAT BOY TRULY IS YOUR WEAKNESS, HM!?
WHY THE TEARS !?
THIS WEAK ATTITUDE !?
BAN (SLAM)

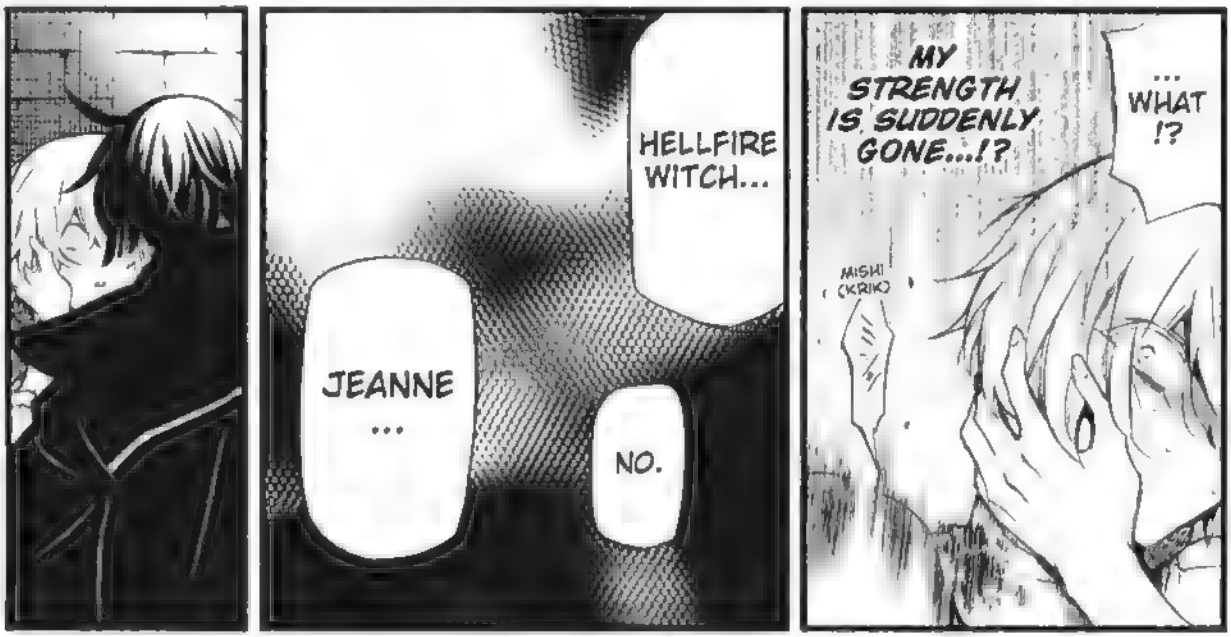
YOU GAVE YOURSELF SOMETHING TO PROTECT. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE WEAK.

...THIS IS GOOD.
... BUT ...

YOU'VE GROWN WEAK. THAT'S TRUE.

I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID, HELLFIRE WITCH.
HUH ...?

GAKUN (CLUNK)
HOWEVER... THAT VERY WEAKNESS HEIGHTENS YOUR BEAUTY.
SU (SWF)


HELLFIRE WITCH...
JEANNE ...
NO.
MY STRENGTH IS SUDDENLY GONE...!?
... WHAT !?
MISHI (KRIK)

YOU'VE COME TO INTEREST ME GREATLY, YOU KNOW ...?

EH?
HUNH?

!?
!?
!!??
.....!?

NGH!
HFF ...!
BIKU, FUNCHU
!
GU (PUSH)
GUI (PULL)
NN!
NNNNN!
NNN.
BA (SHOVE)
...HM.
PERO (LICK)
GAKU (SLUMP)

THAT LOOK'S TERRIBLY ENTICING TOO.
HA HA...
HFF...
HFF

AAAH, SPLENDID ...!
TRULY MARVELOUS, JEANNE!

ZOKU
ZOKU
ZOKUU
ZOKU (SHIVER)

MORE, MORE!
I WANT TO SEE ALL YOUR DIFFERENT SIDES!
IT BEATS SO LOUDLY.
I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF OF YOU.
DO
DO (THROB)
DO
EEP!
WHAT IS THIS THROBBING IN MY CHEST ...!?

YES, I GET IT NOW. I UNDER-STAND.
I SEE...

?

GLII (TUG)

THIS IS... "LOVE"!

??

ARE YOU NUTS !!?

MARRY ME, AND BE MINE ...!!

FROM NOW ON, I'LL LOVE YOU DEARLY.

JEANNE...

...I MUST HAVE ALL OF YOU.

I LOVE YOU ...!

HOW...
...!?
BIKU (JOLT)
...
DARE
...
...YOU!?
GOO (FWOOSH)
BUA (BWOOSH)
WHAT THE —!?
FLAMES ...!? WHERE FROM ...?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO JEANNE !!!?

WOOSH
LUCA... YOU'RE ...!?
A LARGE-SCALE "FORMULA" REVISION ...!!
!
DA (DASH)
MASTER LUCA!!
GOSHI
GOSHI (RUB)
.....
WE'LL WITHDRAW FOR TODAY.
TAN (TMP)
TAN

I'LL COME TO KILL YOU, I SWEAR IT...!!
BUT REMEMBER THIS...! NEXT TIME, I'LL KILL YOU!!
AAAAARGH!
OOOH!
YOU'LL COME TO SEE ME!? I CAN'T WAIT!!
HEH!
HEH!
AH!
TAN (LEAP)
KISHAAA (HISSS)
JEANNE, PLEASE LET ME GO! I'LL KILL THAT MAN... RIGHT NOW!!
MASTER LUCA, YOU MUSTN'T!
YOU SAID NOT TO KILL, REMEMBER!?

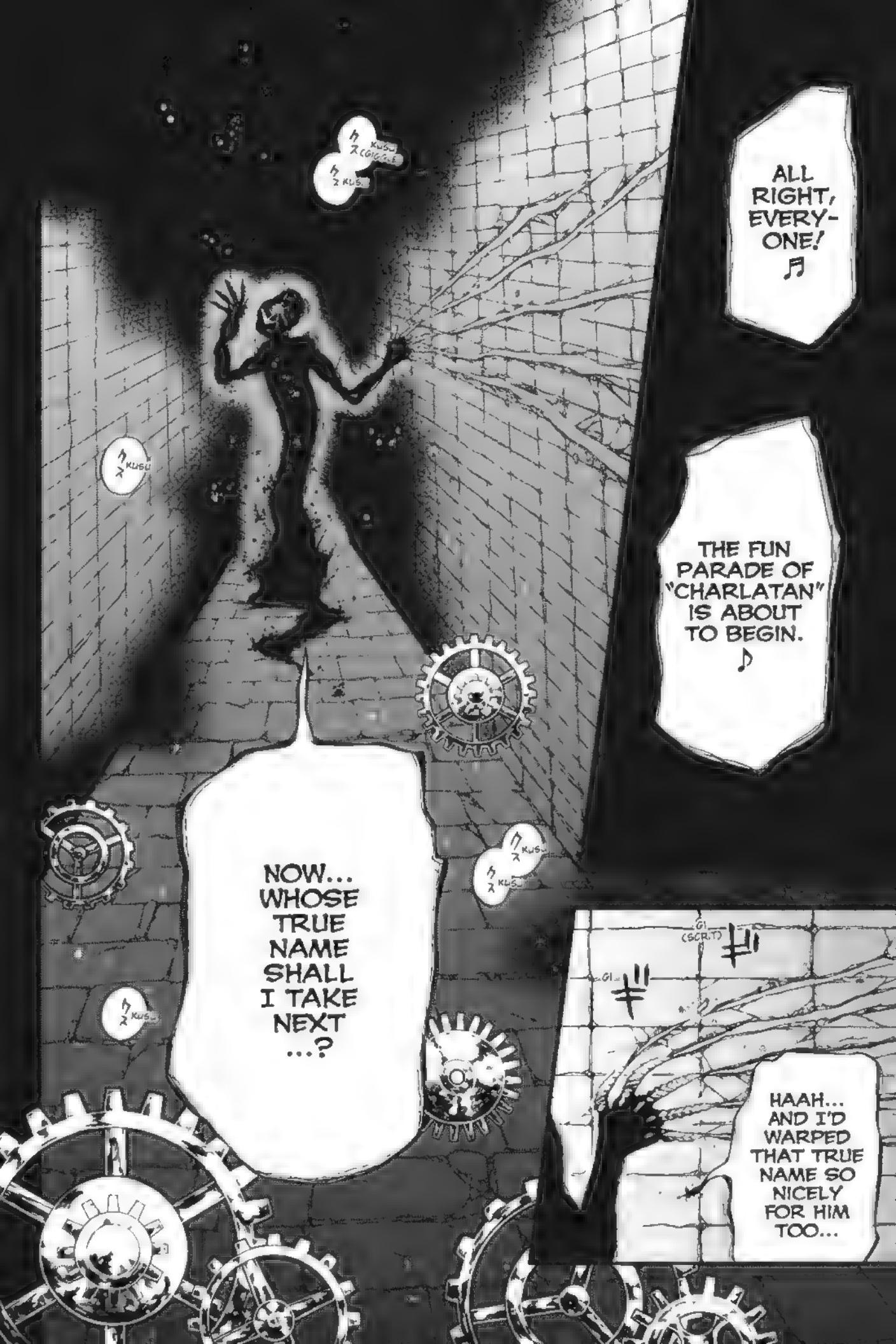
SISTER! THE NINE-FOLD MURDERER IS GONE!
HE MUST HAVE SLIPPED AWAY IN THE CONFUSION! AFTER HIM!
HAAAH..
...HEH.
AH HA HA!
HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA!
BATA (FLOP)

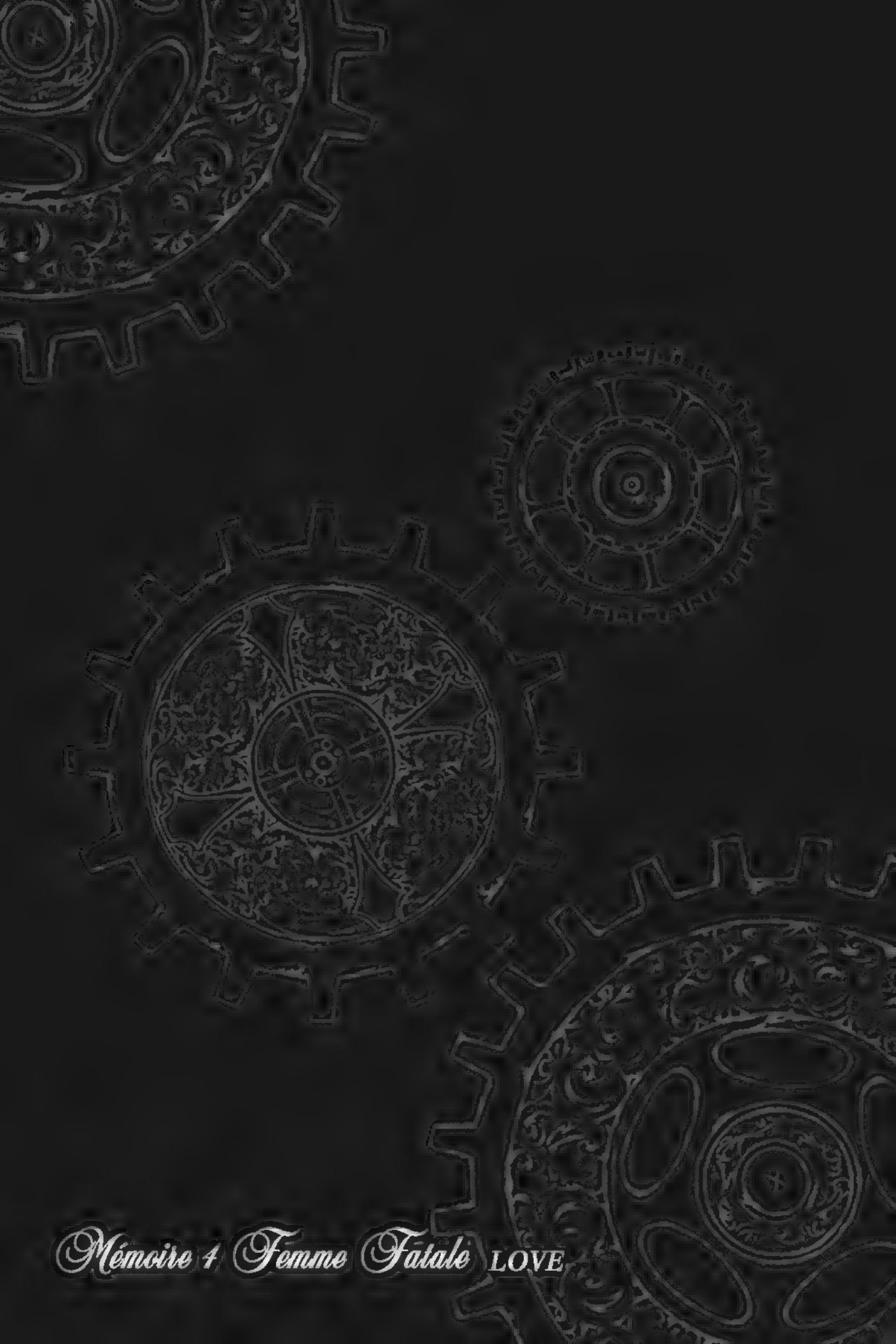
.....
LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET ENTERTAINING...
...NOÉ!

YOU...
SERIOUSLY. WHAT ARE YOU...?
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME ...!?
MY TRUE NAME IS BACK TO NORMAL ...!?
ANYWAY, I'VE GOT TO RUN.
I'VE KILLED PEOPLE.
I WON'T GET OFF EASY IF THEY TAKE ME TO COUNT ORLOK!
SHARA CTING)

OH
GOKI (SNAP)
YOU...
YOU ARE—
ZA (STEP)
!
SISTER!

WHO KILLED HIM...!?
...!
...HE'S DEAD.
HURRY... WE MUST REPORT THIS TO MASTER PARKS AT ONCE...!
BORO (CRUMBLE)
SHARAN (JINGLE)
KUSU
KUSU
SHARA (TING)
KUSU
KUSU GIGGLE
KUSU


ALL RIGHT, EVERY-ONE! ♬
THE FUN PARADE OF "CHARLATAN" IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. ♪
NOW... WHOSE TRUE NAME SHALL I TAKE NEXT ...?
HAAH... AND I'D WARPED THAT TRUE NAME SO NICELY FOR HIM TOO...
KUSU (GIGGLE)
KUSU...
KUSU...
KUSU...
KUSU...
KUSU...
GI (SCRIT)
GI...


Mémoire 4 Femme Fatale LOVE

LET'S HEAR IT, NOÉ!
VANITAS, I HAVE A QUESTION.
GAJI (GNAW)
GAJI
GAJI
GAJI
TOTE (*'JP)
TOTE
TOTE
WHY DO YOU CALL DANTE "BALDY"?
FROM WHAT I CAN SEE, DANTE'S HEAD ISN'T WHAT ONE WOULD GENERALLY CALL "BALD" ...
SHADDUP! QUACK! QUAAAAAACK!!
BALDY! BALDY! BALDY!
TSK, TSK, TSK! YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG, NOÉ!
I DON'T CALL DANTE "BALDY" BECAUSE HE'S BALD!
I TOLD YOU, I'VE GOT TONS OF HAIR!!!
BALDY, BALDY, BALDY, BALDY, SHUT UP, YOU MORON!!!
EVERY TIME I SCREAM "BALDY" AT HIM, I'M CURSING HIM TO "GO BALD IMMEDIATELY!!!"
IT SHOULD TAKE EFFECT QUITE SOON!
I SEE. THAT MAKES PERFECT SENSE!
OHH.

Special Thanks!

- KANATA MINAZUKI-SAN — MAAAAARVEL!!!!
- YUKINO-SAN — QUEEN OF THE WORKPLACE
- MIZU KING-SAN — I LIKE ON TABE® DOUBUTSU
- NOERU-SENSEI — WEIHNACHTEN! NATALE!! DIES NATALIS JESU CHRISTI!!!
- SAYA AYAHAMA-SAN — ERO-SENSEI!
- SAIKYU BABA-SAN — A STABLE SANAKO SUMMONER.
- KANE SAITOU-SAN — SHOW ME THROUGH THE COUNTRY OF DREAMS AGAIN, PLEASE!
- RYOOOO-CHAN — POP, POP (GET IT OUT AGAIN.)
- KINOKO AKIKAZE-SENSEI — YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING, IN ALL SORTS OF WAYS (ESPECIALLY YOUR AWKWARD TWANG.)
- KEI-SAN — CAN CUDDLE?
- KAHO KOIDE-SAN — CAN I CUDDLE MORE??
- TAROU YONEDA-SAN — SO ADAPTABLE YOU'D NEVER THINK YOU'D JUST STARTED HERE
- FUMITO YAMAZAKI-SAN-SAN — HURRY UP AND COME HOME! COME HOOOOME!!!

THANK YOU FOR LA BALEINE!!

RYOU YAMAGUCHI-SAMA

RYOMA ARAKI-SAMA

DESIGNER-SAMA

THANK YOU FOR INTRODUCING ME TO A BRILLIANT DESIGNER!

EVERYONE WHO HELPED ME COLLECT MATERIALS

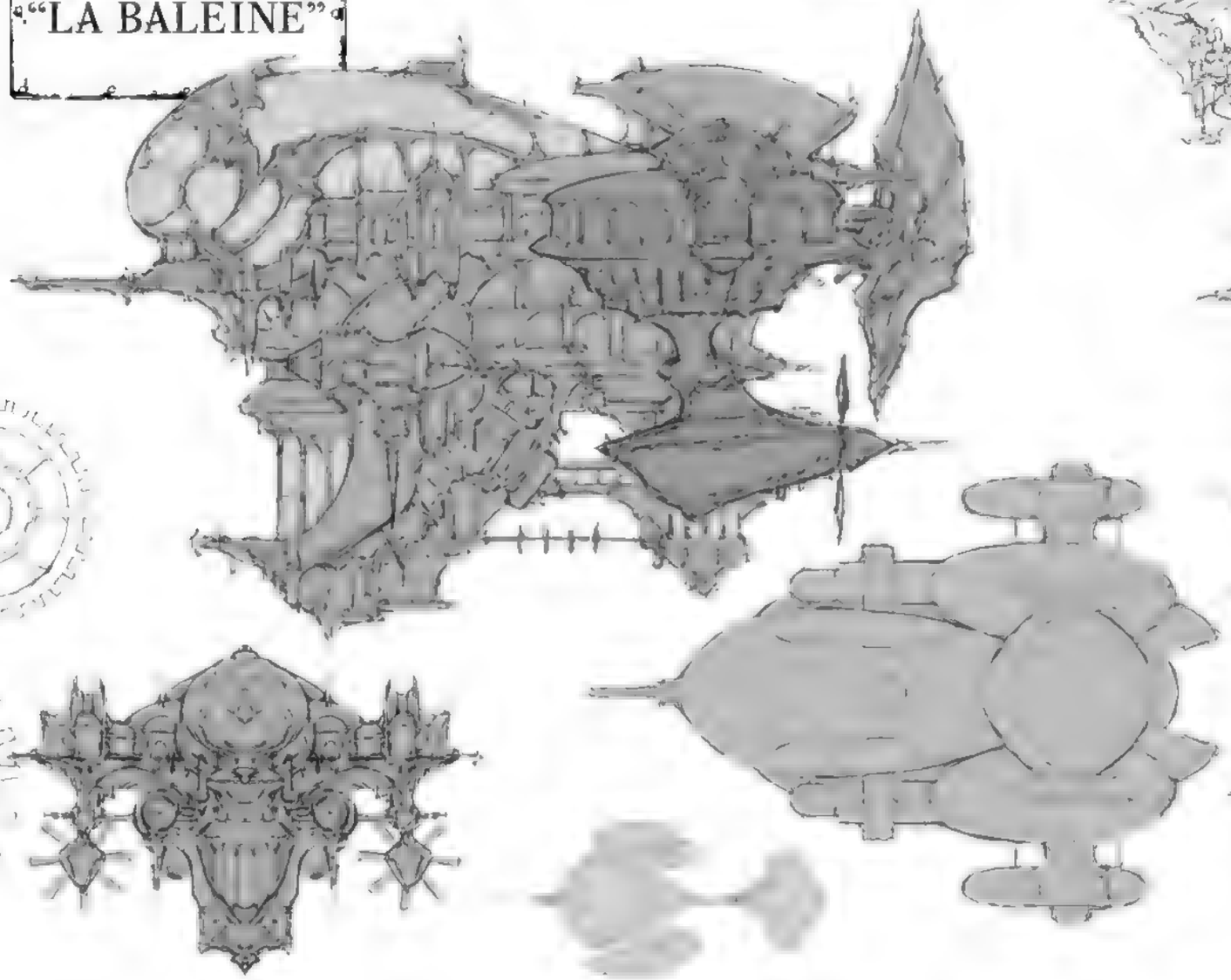
MY EDITORS KOUNO-SAN AND OGASAWARA-SAN
LET ME APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE. THERE'S GOING TO BE ALL SORTS OF TROUBLE, AND I'M SORRY

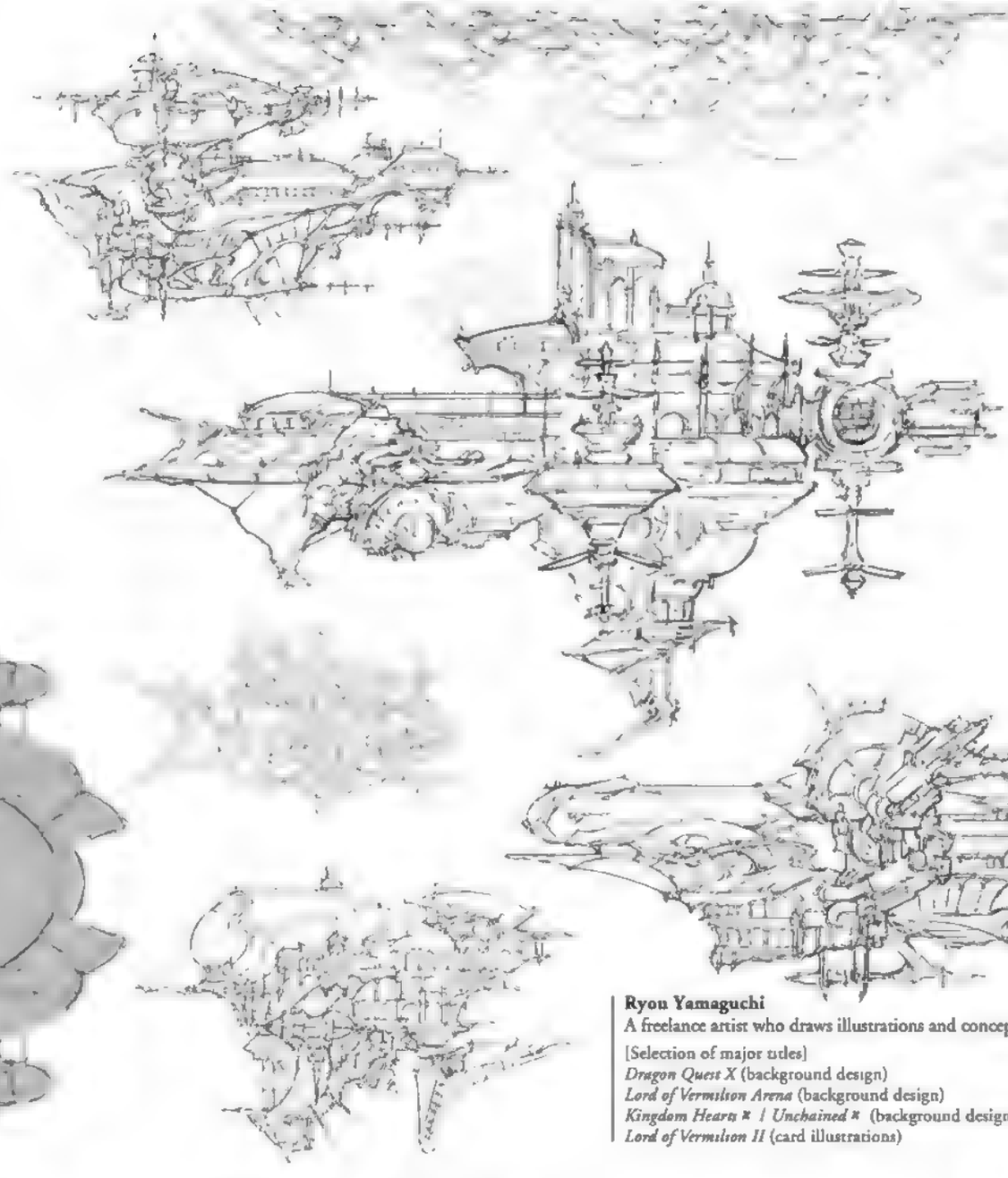
AND YOU!!

The Case Study of Vanitas VOLUME 2

COMING IN 2017

LUXURY PASSENGER LINER
"LA BALEINE"





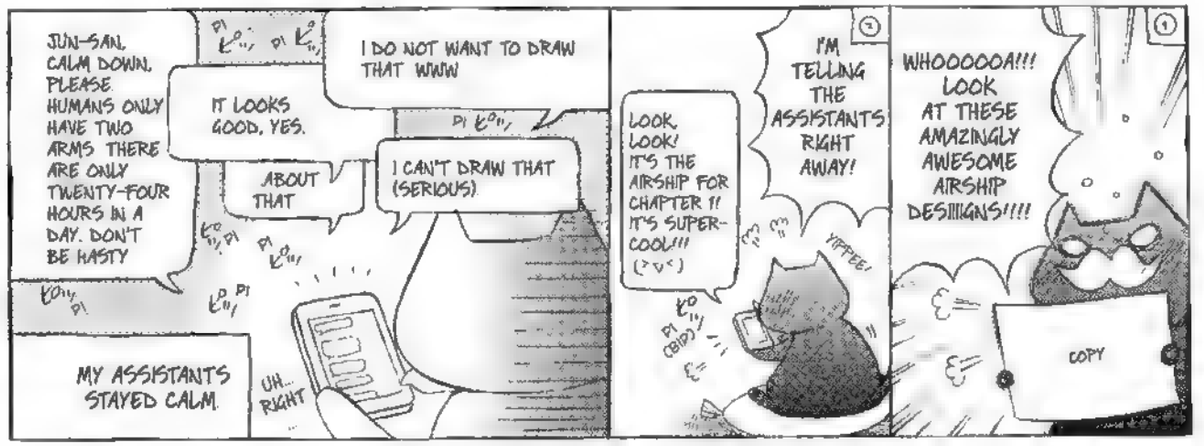
We got lots of rough sketches in addition to the design we finally went with.

Ryou Yamaguchi
A freelance artist who draws illustrations and concept art.

[Selection of major titles]
Dragon Quest X (background design)
Lord of Vermilion Arena (background design)
Kingdom Hearts χ / Unchained χ (background design)
Lord of Vermilion II (card illustrations)

The airship La Baleine was created by designer Ryou Yamaguchi-san!
†
Thank you for creating this fantastic design after I hit you with such a vague, impossible request ("Make it seem like there's a gothic building flying through the sky")! I want to go aboard La Baleine too…

"A big airship that glides through the night sky over steampunk Paris, elegant and elaborately ornate, but not too much like a ship or a mecha; make it feel like something that really shouldn't be able to fly, like a gothic building, only it is flying…" Etc., etc. Even as all these words flew back and forth during the meeting, and I thought, "Wow, that sounds pretty hard," as if it were somebody else's problem, I have a very clear memory of itching to start drawing it right away. I packed the design with a concentration of the excitement I felt at the time. I'll be really happy if it conveys even a little bit of anything to you.
……by **Ryou Yamaguchi**


JUN-SAN, CALM DOWN. PLEASE HUMANS ONLY HAVE TWO ARMS THERE ARE ONLY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS IN A DAY. DON'T BE HASTY
IT LOOKS GOOD. YES.
I DO NOT WANT TO DRAW THAT WWW
ABOUT THAT
I CAN'T DRAW THAT (SERIOUS)
MY ASSISTANTS STAYED CALM.
UH... RIGHT
LOOK, LOOK! IT'S THE AIRSHIP FOR CHAPTER 1! IT'S SUPER-COOL!!! (>▽<)
I'M TELLING THE ASSISTANTS RIGHT AWAY!
YIPPEE!
WHOOOOOA!!! LOOK AT THESE AMAZINGLY AWESOME AIRSHIP DESIIIGNS!!!!
COPY

Jun Mochizuki

Author's Note

Paris was the first overseas destination I ever visited. This story is made with a base of the emotion and elation I felt back then, packed with all sorts of things I like, then simmered well. I hope it suits your palate.

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MOCHIZUKI-SAN, YOU'RE SO CRUEL!
AFTER THAT FIRST CHAPTER, I HAVE NO CHOICE
BUT TO READ THE SERIES TO THE VERY END!

WONDERING
HOW IT WILL
ALL TURN OUT...

...IS DRIVING
ME INSANE!!

—from HIROMU ARAKAWA,
author of *Fullmetal Alchemist*, *Silver Spoon*,
and *The Heroic Legend of Arslan*

The Case Study of Vanitas
Volume 1

Jun Mochizuki

Translation: Taylor Engel
Lettering: Morgan Hart, Bianca Pistillo

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